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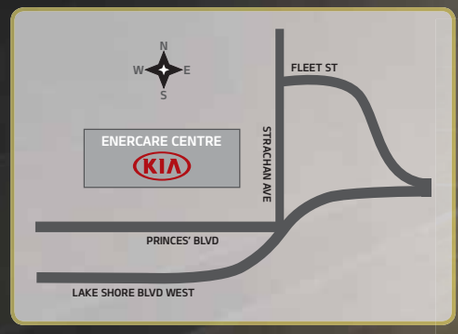

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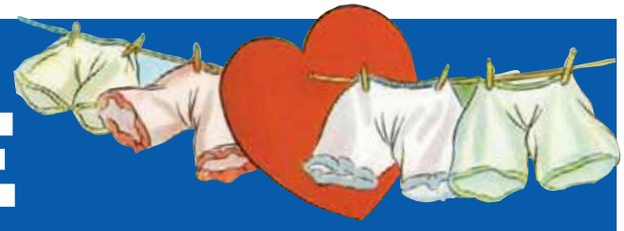

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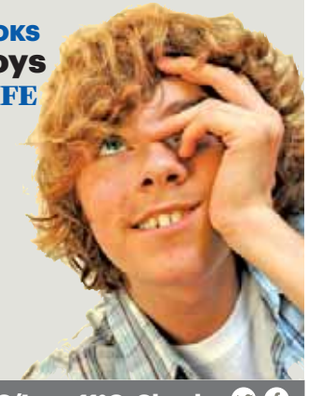

2016 NBA ALL-STAR

FRANCHISE DUNK

How Vince Carter put the Raps on the map

metroSPORTS

T.O. kids growing up

DOWNTOWN CORE

City plans to make life in highrises more family-friendly

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

The city is embarking on a lofty plan to make its vertical communities more livable for children and families.

According to the 2011 census, nearly a third of Toronto families live in mid- or highrise buildings. However, the same data shows that in the downtown core, only 0.8 per cent of units built in the first decade of the 2000s contained three or more bedrooms.

That hasn't stopped families from moving in. In Coun. Joe Cressy's Ward 20 — the tallest ward in Toronto — the percentage of children under five is higher than the city average.

"Families are living in these vertical neighbourhoods," he said. "But they're leaving as the kids get older. If we want them to stay and make their lives downtown then we need to have the range of amenities families need."

The city's new Growing Up study aims to ascertain what those needs are and how to provide them. Consultations are launching in the next few weeks, and a report will be issued suggesting changes to the city's official plan in 2017.

In CityPlace — one of the city's newest and most vertical neighbourhoods — new parents know exactly what the area needs.

"Parents are moving out of the area because they can't get their kids into a good school," said Susan Quach.

Quach has lived in CityPlace since 2009 and has a two-year-old daughter. She loves the convenience of the neighbourhood and is hopeful two schools slated for construction in CityPlace are open by the time her daughter starts kindergarten.

She'd also like to see more affordable two and three-bedroom units become available. Presently, she and her husband are still renting.

"The price is still too high," she said. "A lot of my friends with toddlers are stuck in one bedrooms and they don't know what to do."

Still, other vertical communities could learn a lot from CityPlace, Cressy said. He wants a number of the initiatives in the neighbourhood — from community housing inclusion to partnering with developers to fund parks and other amenities — to become official city planning policies.

"We have to build communities, not just add density," he said.

More on vertical communities, page 10

Mona Qiu, 2, works on a painting along with other neighbourhood children during after-school programming at the Fort York Toronto Public Library. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

China reports its first case of imported Zika virus, found in a 34-year-old man.

IN BRIEF

Electric cars incentivized
Ontario is jump-starting subsidies for drivers who buy electric vehicles in a bid to cut pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. The maximum incentive will rise to $10,000 from $8,500 and cars with five or more seats will qualify for an extra $1,000, Premier Kathleen Wynne announced. The government said it will also boost its funding to build more charging stations. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Officer not charged after injuring boy during arrest
No criminal charges will be laid against a police officer who injured a 17-year-old while arresting him last year. A Special Investigations Unit release says officers approached a group of boys in St. James Town looking into a possible smoking bylaw violation.

Police tried to arrest one for public drunkenness and he allegedly resisted and was wrestled to the ground. The release said footage and statements showed the boy "grew increasingly belligerent at what he believed to be unlawful police 'carding.'" He allegedly was found to have a chipped wrist bone. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

One man dead in house fire
One man is dead following a house fire this morning in Vaughan. Emergency crews responded to a call at 11:08 a.m. Wednesday, for a home on Dante Court near Weston and Langstaff roads. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Taxi driver calls Uber 'healthy competition'

RIDE-SHARING

Cabbie says pressure may inspire change

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Naser Kaid has been driving a cab in Toronto for the past 10 years, and says he's glad Uber is around. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Naser Kaid is glad this weekend's planned protest against Uber has been called off.

After all, he wasn't going to join his fellow cab drivers in a strike that would have disrupted traffic during one of the busiest weekends in the city.

The 10-year veteran of the city's taxi industry has no ill feelings whatsoever about Uber, and he's pleading with other drivers to drop the conflict with Uber. If anything, Uber's been good for cabbies by putting extra pressure on the industry, Kaid says.

"It's healthy competition," said the 48-year-old father of three who works for Co-Op Taxi. "I don't work for Uber, but I am glad they are here now."

The United Taxi Workers Association announced the cancellation of its boycott — which would have fallen on Family Day and NBA All-Star weekend — on Wednesday after Beck Taxi spent the week contacting its drivers and urging them to drop the idea.

Taxi drivers in other cities around the world, however, moved forward with strikes.

Montreal's mayor called for a temporary halt to Uber following a Wednesday protest that caused chaos at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Airport. Traffic ground to a halt in London, England, after about 8,000 taxi drivers stormed the streets asking for Uber regulations.

Kaid said Uber's arrival might not have meant more money for Toronto drivers, but it's changed a lot of things in the industry.

"Even the way company owners talk to us now is different," he said, adding drivers were treated "like slaves" before Uber came to town.

"They used to say, 'Give me the keys and go home.' Not anymore. Because they know we have options."

Drivers need to stop being "jealous" of Uber and its success, another driver told Metro.

"We cannot compete with these people. It's a young generation thing," he said, adding customers like Uber's convenience and ability to "just jump in and out."

> **"I don't work for Uber, but I am glad they are here now.**
> Naser Kaid

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6th Man Movement rallying Raptors fans

2016 NBA ALL-STAR

Local designer aims to boost Canadian pride with new shirt

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

When it comes to basketball, Ryan Almeida doesn't believe the real sixth man is sitting on the bench.

Instead, it's the kid in the stands cheering at the top of his lungs, the regular season ticket-holder who refuses to miss a game and the thousands of people watching in bars and basements.

Almeida, 28, is launching a 6th Man Movement in Toronto — acknowledging all those fans and rallying them together.

"The whole idea is about everyone uniting for the common goal, which is Canada's basketball team," the graphic designer said.

Ryan Almeida is the Toronto sports fan behind what he's dubbed the "6th Man Movement." LIZ BEDDALL/ METRO

With the Raptors' recent wins and the NBA All-Star Weekend coming to Canada for the first time, Almeida put his design skills to work, creating a signature shirt featuring a Raptor claw to symbolize fans' pride in the team.

The Raptors are known for their boisterous fans both inside the Air Canada Centre and in Jurassic Park. A big fan himself, Almeida believes all the support could be fuelling the success that's pushed the team to second place in the Eastern Conference.

"I think it's good for players to know there's that kind of support from the community," he said, adding it was especially noticeable in the All-Star voting that Kyle Lowry got a spot as a starter.

"I've watched this team from the start. The more support they get from fans, the better they play."

'6 OCTOBER'

Last fall, when the Blue Jays were red hot, Almeida designed the "6 October" shirts, selling them for $20 each and donating more than $1,000 to Covenant House, which helps homeless youth. His new shirts celebrating the Raptors and their fans are being sold at 6man.ca with part of the proceeds also going to charity.

SHERWAY GARDENS

Holt Renfrew to shut small store's doors

Luxury Canadian retailer Holt Renfrew announced Wednesday it will close its small Sherway Gardens store, just as Saks Fifth Avenue prepares to open a location in the mall on Feb. 25.

Holt Renfrew president Mark Derbyshire said in a statement Wednesday that Holt's is focusing on flagship markets and larger stores.

"As a result, the company will be relocating its business and associates from its Sherway Gardens location to its new Square One store later this year."

The Sherway store employs 120 people.

At 130,000 square feet, the new Square One store will be nearly four times as large as the one at Sherway Gardens.

The two-storey Square One store is scheduled to open this summer. No closing date was given for the store at Sherway Gardens.

"That store just never hit home with consumers," said Farla Efros, president of the retail consultancy HRC Advisory. "It never picked up. It was my understanding that they were going to close it … they were just waiting for the lease to come up."

Efros said Holt Renfrew has had a monopoly on the luxury market in Canada until now.

"I do think that with Saks and Nordstrom coming in, they really need to up their game — and they're doing that," she said, referring to the recently renovated Holt Renfrew store at Yorkdale and the Bloor Street flagship.

Saks Fifth Avenue is scheduled to open its first store in Canada at Toronto Eaton Centre on Feb. 18, followed by the Sherway Gardens location a week later.

The lavish new Holt Renfrew at Square One will include the services of a master tailor, a concierge and valet, and will offer shoeshine and sneaker cleaning services.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **That store just never hit home with consumers.**
> Farla Efros

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Actor told friend of choking, trial hears

COURTS

Spoke of event more than 10 years ago: Statement

Lucy DeCoutere told a good friend more than a decade ago that Jian Ghomeshi choked her at his house, according to a witness statement entered into evidence near the end of Ghomeshi's high-profile sexual assault trial.

DeCoutere "described an incident in which she had gone to (Ghomeshi's) house, and that he had ended up putting his hands on her neck and choking her," according to Sarah Dunsworth, DeCoutere's friend and fellow actor on the TV show Trailer Park Boys.

Justice William Horkins has been asked by the Crown attorney in the case to consider the statement as proof not that the choking happened, but rather that DeCoutere did not invent the allegation to gain publicity. The Crown's closing arguments start Thursday at 10 a.m.

Dunsworth was snowbound in Halifax, and a decision was made by the court to receive her evidence by way of the statement to police. A Toronto detective took her statement on Nov. 24, 2014. Ghomeshi was charged with sexual assault two days later.

Ghomeshi is charged with four counts of sexual assault and one of choking. He has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

According to a transcript of the interview, Dunsworth said that when her friend disclosed to her the choking allegation she told DeCoutere "it's really not normal."

"And we talked about the fact that (Ghomeshi and DeCoutere) hadn't discussed it beforehand, or that it wasn't part of any kind of like, you know, sex play, or anything," Dunsworth told detectives.

DeCoutere told court when she testified that Ghomeshi assaulted her in 2003. The Dunsworth statement says she was unsure of the date, but thought it was in 2004.

Recounting the story to the detective, Dunsworth told police that her friend doesn't date much, but she knew DeCoutere was going on a date with Ghomeshi. A couple of days after the date, Dunsworth said DeCoutere told her during a telephone call about the choking incident. She said her friend was "reaching out to a girlfriend."

She said DeCoutere told her there was no warning from Ghomeshi, and that DeCoutere said of the concept of choking as part of sex that she was "really not interested in it."

Dunsworth said they discussed the alleged sexual assault periodically over the years, including the period before she and DeCoutere were interviewed by Ghomeshi, in Trailer Park Boys character, on the CBC radio show Q in 2008 — an interview she described as "very awkward" because Ghomeshi was very rude and "obviously wasn't interested in interviewing us even slightly."

In their argument against Dunsworth's statement being admitted at trial, the defence produced Facebook messages between the two women from Nov. 11, 2014, prior to Dunsworth making her police statement.

In the messages, DeCoutere says the Toronto police want Dunsworth's phone number because she told them she had related the incident to Dunsworth long before she'd told police. "It makes me look like I am not a copycat," she wrote.

The defence argued this means Dunsworth did not have an independent recollection of their conversation. The trial continues Thursday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **We talked about the fact that ... it wasn't part of any kind of like, you know, sex play.** Sarah Dunsworth

Jian Ghomeshi arrives at a Toronto court on Wednesday. The trial continues Thursday. NATHAN DENETTE /THE CANADIAN PRESS

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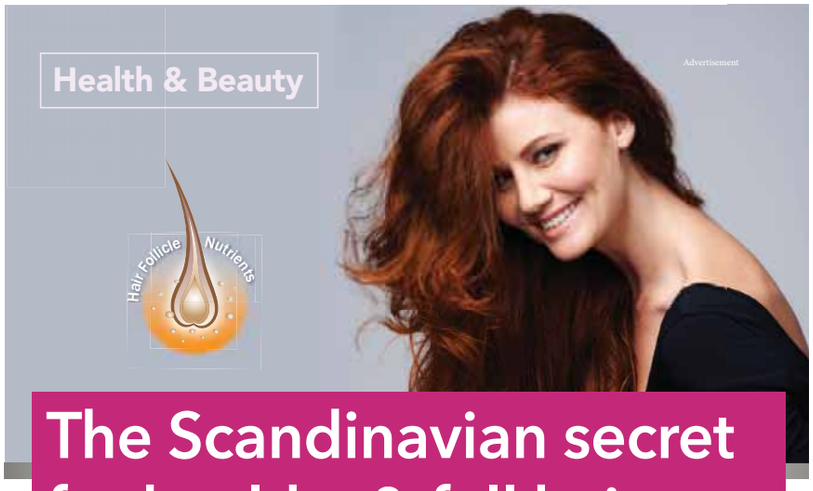

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These three images, created by Ryerson students, can be brought to life with your smartphone. To try it out, download the free Layar app and scan the pictures. COURTESY OF BIRCH MEDIA

Ryerson students bring pages to life

MEDIA

Augmented reality used to enhance graphic novel

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

A group of media production students at Ryerson is bringing a graphic novel to life with augmented reality.

The students are in a radio and TV production class, but decided their major project would be a graphic novel instead. Prince Ivan uses the Layar app to activate animations and music on readers' smartphones when they scan some of the graphic novel's panels.

"It enhances the graphic novel experience," said Kathy Tong, marketing director for Birch Media, the students' group.

The layering concept is written into the story about Prince Ivan, a 21-year-old who runs away from his home (a castle), enters a cursed forest and meets his brother.

"After running from the throne, Ivan finds himself trapped outside the castle walls," the promo materials for the comic say. "While searching for a way back, he seemingly discovers the solution to all his problems. But as the castle comes closer within reach, the truth begins to slip away behind more and more layers."

Using augmented reality is a new trend in graphic novels, said Tong. Marvel and Michael Bay's 451 Media use augmented reality in their comics.

"Media is completely different now," said Tong.

"From this, we learned it's good to do something different and unique, but also do combine something like a graphic novel, with something new, like mobile devices."

LAUNCH DATE

The Birch Media group from Ryerson will officially launch Prince Ivan on Feb. 21 with a party at Silver Snail Comics (329 Yonge St.) at 7:30 p.m.

Deputy chief steps down

TORONTO POLICE SERVICE

Sloly had eye on replacing Bill Blair in the top job

Peter Sloly is stepping down as a deputy chief of the Toronto Police Service.

However, Sloly's departure has nothing to do with his recent remarks that prompted the police union to allege the 27-year veteran's candour breached the Police Services Act, a city hall source said.

Sloly approached the board months ago, asking to be let go from his contract, which expires in December 2017. He will receive an undisclosed payout, said the source.

The 49-year-old had been considered the frontrunner to replace former chief Bill Blair. But the civilian oversight board, which includes Mayor John Tory, instead chose Mark Saunders last April.

Asked if he thought the board made the wrong decision by picking Saunders, seen as the status quo candidate, Sloly said: "No. The board made the right decision. It chose a chief it wanted to go with. I have no questions, qualms about that, that's a board decision, that's not mine."

Nor would he comment on the prevailing view that the board chose a candidate less likely to ruffle the feathers of the powerful Toronto Police Association.

"I don't know about that, I'm not even going to comment on that," he said.

TORSTAR NEW SERVICE

Former Toronto Deputy Police Chief Peter Sloly addresses media at Toronto Police Headquarters Wednesday afternoon.

LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CHINATOWN

New images issued in murder investigation

Toronto Police have released new video surveillance images in the murder investigation of two Toronto men.

David Eminess, 26, and Quinn Taylor, 28, were fatally shot in Chinatown on Jan. 31. Three other men, including one friend and two bystanders, were also shot and are recovering from their injuries, police say.

Police are sharing images captured from surveillance cameras in the area and urge anyone with new information to contact them.

"There may be more video that we may have not yet been obtained," said Det. Sgt. Mike Carbone.

He also asked that anyone with cellphone and dashboard camera footage, or surveillance footage from the west side of Spadina Ave. between College and Dundas streets, contact police.

To reach the Homicide Squad, call 416-808-7400, or submit your tip anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 416-222-TIPS (8477).

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pictures captured on surveillance cameras.

TORONTO POLICE SERVICE

COURT

Man pretended to be his 'friend': police

Police say a Toronto man is facing additional charges after allegedly pretending to be someone else when he appeared in court to fight a speeding ticket.

Provincial police say the 33-year-old was issued a speeding ticket in July 2015 and elected a trial date.

OPP say the man appeared in court in New Tecumseth on Tuesday, sought a resolution to his ticket from the prosecutor, and when it wasn't to his satisfaction, sought an adjournment.

When asked for his name, it's alleged he identified himself as another person and claimed to be representing a "friend" who was sick with the flu.

The officer who issued the ticket recognized the man after he obtained his adjournment and arrested him outside the courthouse.

The man now faces two counts of obstructing justice, one count of personation with intent as well as the speeding offence.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Community takes root

DOWNTOWN

CityPlace has become a model for new condo towers

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Building a 49-storey tower is one thing. Building a community around it is another.

When the first CityPlace towers opened in 2003, critics were quick to denounce the fledgling condo neighbourhood. Some even declared it a "ghetto," and predicted it would become a bastion for disaffected singles, shuffling between their one-bedroom units in the sky and the financial district.

Thirteen years later, CityPlace has defied expectations and is becoming a model for other so-called vertical communities. Dog-walkers wave to each other in Canoe Landing Park, stores ply their wares at the base of the massive towers and parents greet each other as they wait for the school bus to drop off their children.

"I feel like I live in a community," says Susan Quach, who lives in CityPlace with her husband and two-year-old daughter. "There's lots of activities, we see the same faces around and people know us."

It wasn't always that way. Lai-King Hum, president of the CityPlace Residents Association, acknowledges the area felt isolated. But over time, parks were built, events were planned and a sense of community took root.

Nowhere is the presence of young children in CityPlace more apparent than at the new Fort York library, which was "inundated with babies the moment we opened," said Ted Belke, head of the branch.

The library will soon be joined by two schools and a new community centre.

Early critics of CityPlace were right about one thing: The area certainly attracted young people — just not the ones naysayers had expected.

"Just because you're young doesn't mean you don't care about where you live," Hum said.

Playing at CityPlace: Eric, 3, and his sister Elena, 6, on his left. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

KEY FIGURES

Located on the old railway lands, between Fort York and Spadina Avenue, CityPlace consists of 22 buildings across 18 hectares. Once the final phase is completed, it will be home to 7,500 units.

The median age in CityPlace is 32.

At least 13,500 people live in CityPlace. Between 2006 and 2011, the area's population grew by 54 per cent, making it the fastest densifying neighbourhood in Toronto.

The average unit in CityPlace is just over 700 square feet.

ROM

Scientists find new tortoise

A group of international researchers led by a curator from the Royal Ontario Museum says it has discovered a new species of tortoise in northern Mexico.

After decades of study, the team uncovered what was previously thought to be a single species is actually three.

The new species has been named Goode's Thornscrub Tortoise after philanthropist Eric Goode, known for his efforts to ensure the survival of turtles and tortoises. The group's research led by Bob Murphy, the ROM's senior curator of herpetology, will be published in ZooKeys journal.

"This discovery draws attention to the special biodiversity found in Mexico," Murphy said in a release. "These research results will help scientists in their efforts to protect endemic wildlife."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Students feeling 'unsafe' after Pride flag is burned

LGBTQ ISSUES

Raising marked start of OUTweek

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

LGBTQ students at the University of British Columbia say they no longer feel safe on campus after a Pride rainbow flag was found burned on Tuesday.

Rachel Garrett, a co-ordinator for UBC's Pride Collective, said emotions are running high for the student-run society after learning that the flag was set on fire.

"It's been a rough day," Garrett told Metro. "A lot of us are definitely feeling very unsafe right now and that's a very unsettling feeling to have, especially in a city that is seen as so inclusive and on a campus that is seen as so accepting."

Coun. Tim Stevenson holds the Pride flag before it was raised at Vancouver City Hall on Wednesday in solidarity with the University of British Columbia. COURTESY VANCOUVER MAYOR'S OFFICE

The flag was raised Friday at the opening ceremony for UBC Pride Collective's OUTweek activities.

Early Tuesday, two group members discovered the flag was missing and contacted officials, who determined the flag had been burned on the weekend.

In a statement, UBC officials said campus security and RCMP are investigating. "UBC condemns this incident as an act of hate and in contravention of the values of equity, inclusion and respect deeply held by the university community," the statement reads. "The university encourages student initiatives such as OUTweek as they provide a supportive and inclusive environment for students to explore topics around gender and sexual identity."

> **We're really standing strong through this.**
> Rachel Garrett

Although it's unclear what the motivation was, Garrett said Pride Collective cancelled a march in support of transgender people planned for Wednesday due to safety concerns. Other OUTweek events will continue as scheduled, she said.

"The history of Pride is a history of activism," Garrett said. "It really does show us why OUTweek is important and why we work to create this safe spaces in the first place, because they are so crucial."

RELATIONSHIPS

Half of women with HIV are single

Although successful treatment can significantly reduce the risk of HIV transmission, nearly half of women living with HIV in Canada say they are not in a relationship.

That's one of the findings of a study led by a Simon Fraser University team that has revealed high rates of sexual inactivity and dissatisfaction among women living with HIV in Canada.

Allison Carter, a PhD candidate at SFU, is hoping to change that. "The main message from our research is that HIV-positive Canadian women can and do enjoy meaningful intimate relationships and healthy sexuality after HIV," Carter told Metro.

"We've done a great job of using medicine and education to prevent HIV, and now we really have to teach people about how you can love someone with HIV."

With a team of researchers, Carter is working to normalize sex and intimacy for women with HIV. THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

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UP Union Pearson Express

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Child count changing

CONTROVERSY

Manitoba's calculation of kids in care excludes some

Manitoba is changing how it counts the number of children in its care to exclude hundreds of cases such as Tina Fontaine's amid concerns it is being unfairly compared to other provinces.

The 15-year-old, who was killed in 2014, was placed into the care of Child and Family Services voluntarily by her guardians. Unlike other provinces, Manitoba counts voluntary placements in its total number of 10,293 children in its care. But changes are being made to how the numbers are reported publicly.

The province will no longer include children who are voluntarily placed in care as part of the overall number. When those 700 are removed, the official number falls below 10,000.

It will also exclude kids who are brought into the system under new customary care legislation in which children at risk of apprehension are placed with a family member in their community.

Both will be reported in a separate category.

Manitoba has continued to come under fire for the large number of children in its care. It is also facing a provincial election in April and the First Nations children's advocate is calling the changes a "deplorable" election ploy.

"Children's lives, human lives, are reduced to be ploys in their campaign tactics. It's deplorable," said Cora Morgan.

Family Services Minister Kerri Irvin-Ross said Manitoba is just levelling the playing field. Other provinces don't include voluntary placements in their totals, either.

Conservative critic Ian Wishart said other provinces do not count kids who are placed voluntarily into care because there are so few of them. THE CANADIAN PRESS

métallos
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de conduire des illégaux UBER-X
SYNDICAT métallos

NO FARE CABBIES PROTEST UBER IN MONTREAL Taxi and limousine drivers targeted Montreal's airport Wednesday as part of their protest against Uber. They refused to pick up passengers arriving in Montreal, leaving travellers stranded. The protest lasted a few hours, but no flights were disrupted. Edmonton city council recently approved a bylaw allowing Uber to operate. Toronto officials are also working on a bylaw. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Feds could be $90B in red

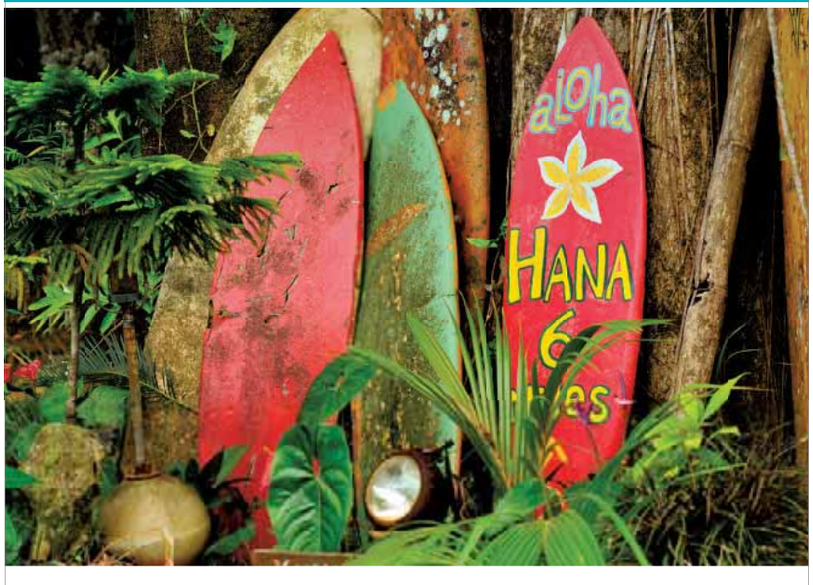
The country's dampened economic prospects could put the Liberal government on pace for $90 billion in deficits over its four-year mandate, the National Bank of Canada suggests. In a report, it said Ottawa could lose $50 billion in revenue over that time, and go deeper into deficit because of electoral commitments. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Refugee nearly drowns in pool at Saskatoon hotel

A 13-year-old Syrian refugee has been released from hospital after nearly drowning in a pool. He got into trouble Monday playing in the Park Town Hotel pool with family. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Green grants doled out to cities across nation

Environment Minister Catherine McKenna has announced $31.5 million in grants and loans to improve air, water and soil. Among the projects McKenna cited were a net-zero-emissions library in Varennes, Que., and solar hot-water systems to go in local Halifax homes. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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72 MONTHS	STK# 6CO5782L

2011 TOYOTA RAV4

BI-WEEKLY	ALL IN PRICE
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72 MONTHS	STK# 5RA3454A

2012 TOYOTA COROLLA CE CONVENIENCE PACKAGE

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$117	~~$14,995~~ $13,495
72 MONTHS	STK# 6CO6462L

2012 TOYOTA PRIUS BACKUP CAMERA

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$143	~~$16,995~~ $16,495
72 MONTHS	STK# 5PR6022L

2012 TOYOTA CAMRY LE

BI-WEEKLY	ALL IN PRICE
$133	~~$18,995~~ $17,495
84 MONTHS	STK# 5CA1086L

2013 TOYOTA SIENNA LE

BI-WEEKLY	ALL IN PRICE
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72 MONTHS	STK# 5SI3740L

2010 MATRIX

BI-WEEKLY	ALL IN PRICE
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60 MONTHS	STK# 5RA7637L

2012 RAV4 V6 LTD

BI-WEEKLY	ALL IN PRICE
$202	~~$23,995~~ $23,495
72 MONTHS	STK# 5RA4257L

Sanders, Trump face challenges

U.S. POLITICS

Stiff tests in Nevada, South Carolina await after big wins

Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Bernie Sanders were moving on Wednesday from commanding wins in the first-in-the-nation New Hampshire primary to more diverse states that will challenge their transformation from outsider candidates to their parties' presidential nominees.

The next Republican contest is the Feb. 20 South Carolina primary. The state is a hotbed of conservative tea party groups and evangelical voters that will test Trump's staying power. Next for Democrats is the Nevada caucus on the same day.

Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, easily beat Hillary Clinton, a former secretary of state and first lady once seen as the all-but-certain Democratic nominee. With more than 90 per cent of the vote counted in New Hampshire, Sanders had 60 per cent to Clinton's 38 per cent.

Trump, the brash real estate billionaire and television personality who has never held public office, had 35 per cent among the Republicans, with moderate Ohio Gov. John Kasich a distant second with 16 per cent.

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz finished third in New Hampshire, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush was fourth and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio was fifth. Less than a percentage point separated each of those positions.

"I think they're all really potential threats," Trump said of his rivals Wednesday on MSNBC. "But I'm OK at handling threats."

Sanders' campaign launched ads Wednesday in Oklahoma, Minnesota, Colorado and Massachusetts — all states where they believe he can grow.

Clinton's campaign argues she will perform better as the race heads to more racially diverse states, including Nevada and South Carolina. Both New Hampshire and Iowa are overwhelmingly white states.

Civil rights activist the Rev. Al Sharpton said he met with Sanders on Wednesday to discuss issues that affect the African-American community, but said he won't endorse a candidate until after meeting with Clinton next week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOP RACE

Christie, Fiorina bow out

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie dropped out of the Republican nomination for president on Wednesday, a day after his disappointing sixth-place finish in New Hampshire's primary.

Christie dropped out of the race the same day that Carly Fiorina announced on social media that she, too, was calling it quits.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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INDIA

Elephant rampages through city streets

A wild elephant rampaged through an east Indian town on Wednesday, smashing cars and homes and sending panicked people running before the animal was tranquilized and returned to the forest.

As the frightened elephant ran amok, trampling parked cars and motorbikes, crowds of people gathered to watch from balconies and roof tops. Some followed from a distance as the elephant moved through the streets.

"The elephant was scared and was trying to go back to the jungle," said Papaiya Sarkar, a 40-year-old homemaker who watched the elephant amble down a street.

The elephant had wandered from the Baikunthapur forest, crossing roads and a small river before entering the town of Siliguri in West Bengal state.

Authorities eventually shot the elephant three times with a tranquilizer gun and used a crane to lift it into a truck once it had calmed down.

It was then taken to a park for domesticated pachyderms that is maintained by the forest department. Once the effect of the tranquilizer wore off, authorities planned to return the elephant to the forest, Rai said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 A wild elephant that strayed into the town moves through the streets as people follow at Siliguri in West Bengal state, India, on Wednesday. The elephant had wandered in from the forest, crossing roads and a small river before entering the town.

2 People watch as a wild elephant roams through the town.

3 The panicked elephant ran amok, trampling parked cars and motorbikes and frightened residents before it was tranquilized.

ALL PHOTOS: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTRALIA

Vet, wartime girlfriend reunite

A 93-year-old American veteran from the Second World War embraced his wartime girlfriend in Australia in their reunion Wednesday after 70 years apart.

Norwood Thomas and 88-year-old Joyce Morris laughed as they wrapped their arms around each other after Thomas flew from Virginia to the southern Australian city of Adelaide to reconnect with his long-lost love.

"This is about the most wonderful thing that could have happened to me," Thomas said.

"Good," Morris replied with a laugh. "We're going to have a wonderful fortnight."

Morris was a 17-year-old British girl and Thomas was a 21-year-old paratrooper when they first met in London shortly before D-Day. After the war, he returned to the U.S. The pair wrote letters to each other, and Thomas asked Morris to come to the U.S. to marry him. But somehow Morris misunderstood and thought he'd found someone else, so she stopped writing.

Norwood Thomas, holds a photo of **Joyce Morris** at his home in Virginia Beach, Va.

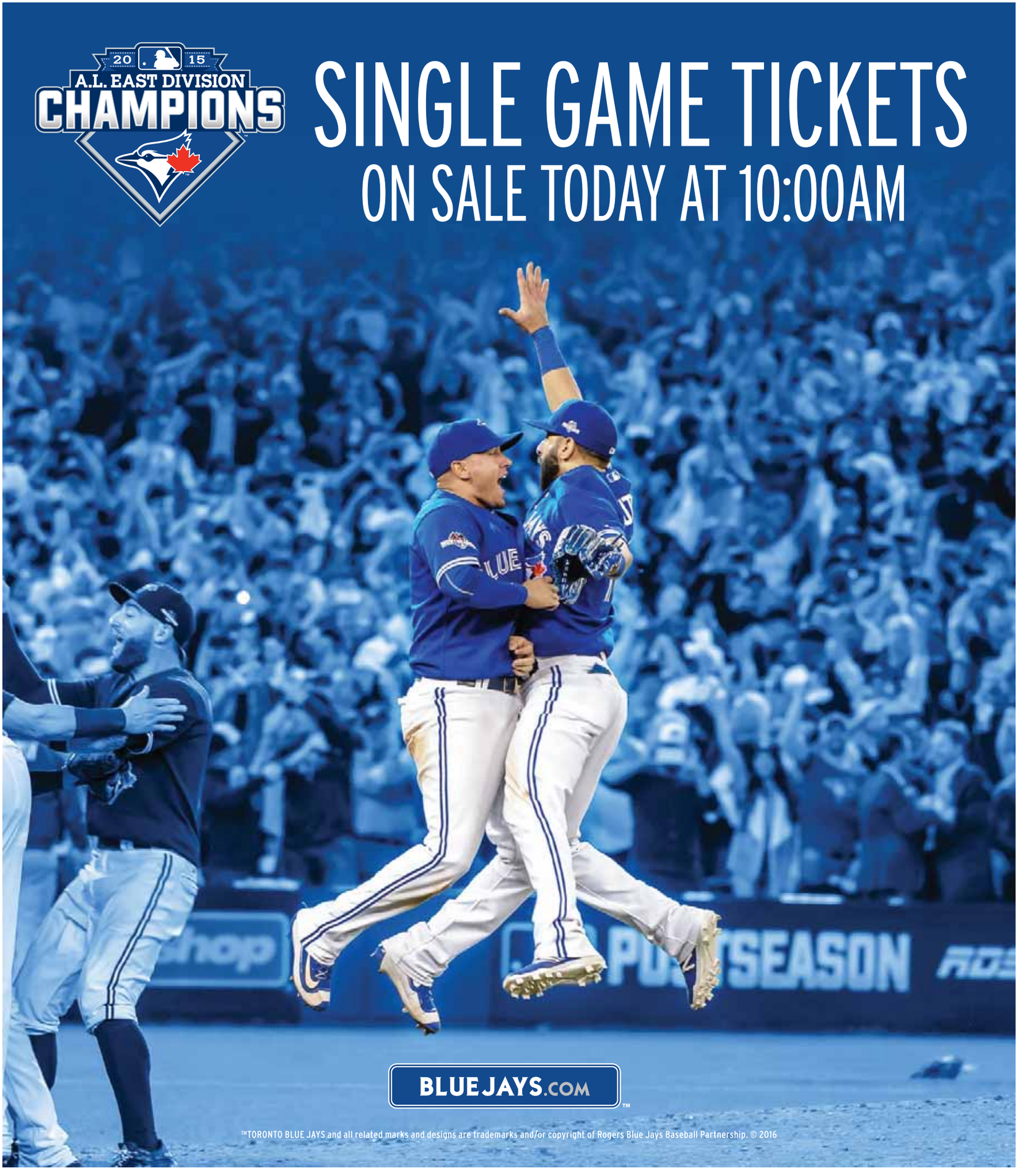
BILL TIERNAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Last year, Morris asked one of her sons to look for Thomas online, and they found his name featured in an article about D-Day that ran in The Virginian-Pilot newspaper.

Thomas and Morris reconnected via Skype. After their story went public, hundreds of people made donations to help fund Thomas's trip to Australia from his hometown in Virginia Beach.

The two are planning to spend Valentine's Day together.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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Nostalgia lures customers

MARKETING

Recreating iconic fictional hangouts are part of a trend

This summer in Toronto, Seinfeld fans will be able to dine at a replica of Monk's Café, while Friends enthusiasts will have the chance to get their caffeine fix at Central Perk.

The iconic fictional hangout re-creations are part of a trend as entrepreneurs and restaurateurs evoke nostalgia to lure in customers — a marketing ploy often used in retail.

"If everybody else is doing that, why not restaurants?" said Carol Wong-Li, a senior analyst of Canadian lifestyle and leisure at Mintel.

The entertainment industry has long used nostalgia, she said. Disney recently revamped the Star Wars saga, which has proved to be a boon for Cineplex, while Netflix has revamped beloved shows like Full House and Arrested Development.

Fans gather outside Tom's Restaurant on May 14, 1998 in New York as they prepare for the last episode of TV show Seinfeld. The show used the restaurant's exterior for a set. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

For eateries, this strategy helps mitigate risk, said Wong-Li, as it provides them with a built-in customer base from the cult shows' fandom.

"Seinfeld is just this cultural phenomenon," said Mackenzie Keast, co-organizer of the upcoming Seinfeld popup diner in Toronto.

He and his three, fellow Seinfeld-loving friends plan to pay homage to the show by serving foods central to plot lines, like chocolate babka, muffin tops and Kenny Rogers's chicken.

After Keast and his friends announced their plans on Facebook, nearly 30,000 expressed interest in attending the launch party July 15. "To enter the world of Seinfeld a bit, I think, is really exciting for a lot of people," he said.

Plans for a Central Perk popup in Toronto are underway as organizers look for locations. FACEBOOK

Fans of Friends seem driven by a similar desire. They've flocked to replica Central Perk popups in England and New York. Now, one is set for a brief stint in Toronto this summer.

Joshua Botticelli and two of his friends planned to open it for one day in June. But, after more than 50,000 people said on Facebook they wanted or planned to go, the trio decided to extend its run to at least three days.

If all those prospective customers do show up to immerse themselves in these TV set replicas, it can pay off financially.

People are more likely to loosen their purse strings when feeling nostalgic, according to a 2014 study published in the Journal of Consumer Research.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

EMPLOYMENT

Health plans tweaked

During his three-year tenure as a financial analyst at one of Canada's biggest banks, Devon Wright never once used his company health plan.

"There was just nothing there that was of any interest to me," says Wright, 28.

So when Wright quit his job in 2012 to launch technology company Turnstyle Solutions, he decided to create a benefits package tailored to his needs.

Turnstyle is one example of how Canadian companies are tweaking their health plans in order to appeal to a new generation of employees.

In addition to the standard drug and dental benefits, Turnstyle covers naturopathic medicine, mental health counselling and provides a fitness subsidy.

The Toronto-based startup also offers free, healthy meals — a major perk for 23-year-old Sam Hillman. "This emphasis on living a healthy lifestyle really shows the company's commitment to me as a holistic individual," says Hillman.

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FAST FOOD

Burger King puts hot dogs on menu

Burger King is looking for a new crown: Hot Dog King.

The Miami-based chain says it plans to put hot dogs on its menu across the U.S. for the first time starting Feb. 23. It may seem like a jarring addition for those who know the chain for its Whoppers. But Burger King says its ability to flame-grill meat makes hot dogs a natural fit on its menu.

"This is probably the most obvious product launch ever," said Alex Macedo, president of Burger King North America.

Burger King hopes hot dogs will help push up sales. ISTOCK

With the launch, Burger King says it will offer hot dogs at all 7,100 of its U.S. restaurants — more U.S. locations than any other chain. Smaller chains that sell hot dogs include Dairy Queen and Sonic Drive-In.

The move comes as Burger King works to push up sales amid intensifying competition, with McDonald's offering breakfast items all day to spark a turnaround, while Wendy's offers a "4 for $4" deal to get customers in the door. In 2014, Burger King's sales rose 2.1 per cent at established locations in the U.S. and Canada.

Macedo said hot dogs would build on the chain's momentum given their growing popularity, including at trendy eateries.

Tests of the hot dogs in a handful of cities last year resulted in unspecified sales increases, according to Burger King. The food-review website The Impulsive Buy noted the hot dogs seem "small and not quite substantial enough" but otherwise gave them a positive review.

Still, fast-food history is riddled with menu flops, and Burger King is no exception. In 2013, for instance, the chain launched lower-calorie fries called "Satisfries." They failed less than a year later.

Macedo recalled another Burger King failure from the past. "At some point, they tried popcorn. They would give it away for free," Macedo said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Computer in self-driving cars considered drivers

Computers that control cars of the future can be considered drivers just like humans, the U.S. federal government's highway safety agency has decided. The redefinition of "driver" by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is an important break for Google, which is developing self-driving cars that get around without steering wheels, pedals — or even the need for a person to be inside. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twitter reports flatlining user growth

Twitter set out to build a virtual town square bustling with billions of people. But it's starting to look more like a novelty stand as the masses flock to other services. The company showed no user growth at all in a fourth-quarter report released Thursday, the clearest signal yet the one-time trendsetter is struggling to remain relevant. That leaves it with 320 million monthly users — one-fifth the size of Facebook.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Faith and fear
Religious people give more charity to strangers if they believe God will punish them for insufficient generosity, new research shows.

CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON THE POST-ELECTION POST-MORTEM

Key Conservative and NDP insiders have been delivering some preliminary conclusions as to the cause of their defeats. Their findings are surprisingly interchangeable.

On a week that marks the passing of Justin Trudeau's 100th day in power, key Conservative and NDP insiders have been delivering some preliminary conclusions as to the causes of their October defeats.

Their findings are strikingly interchangeable — with the popular momentum for change somewhat conveniently fingered as a root cause of electoral failure.

In an op-ed piece published on Monday in The Globe and Mail, former Conservative campaign manager Jenni Byrne states: "The Liberals won because Canadians had an overwhelming desire for change, the extent to which wasn't fully appreciated until after the campaign had started."

In a memo summarizing the party's campaign review to date, NDP president Rebecca Blaikie reports: "Our campaign presented us as cautious change, which was out of sync with Canadians' desire for a dramatic break from the decade of Harper's rule, a desire we contributed to building."

Those who have kept their ear to the opposition ground since the election will find the refrain familiar. On the right, as on the left, there is no lack of party loyalists looking for solace in the notion that, in four years, the appeal of Trudeau's change agenda will have faded, with the pendulum swinging back their way.

Indeed, Byrne does not exclude the possibility that her party could be back in power as early as 2019. Over on the NDP side, Thomas Mulcair is counting on his prime ministerial gravitas to see him through a leadership review later this year.

Fatigue with the ruling Liberals will eventually set in, although history suggests that could take more than a single mandate. But meanwhile, the Conservatives and the New Democrats, as they look back on their failed campaigns, should take care not to miss the forest for the trees.

I will come back in a future column to the NDP's contention that it offered "cautious change," but first, the myopic inside view from the Conservative backroom.

How is it possible that the party brain-trust underestimated the potential force of the tide for change? It was a current running through public-opinion polls for most of the life of the last Parliament.

Harper was seeking to win a fourth consecutive mandate, a feat for which there is no modern precedent at the federal level.

In provinces such as Ontario, British Columbia and Manitoba, the incumbent parties that had recently beaten the odds and stayed in power beyond a third mandate had all changed leaders along the way.

Not only was Harper staying put for a fifth campaign, there was no compensatory injection of new blood in his team. On the contrary, there was a pre-election bloodletting of government talent.

Byrne credits a strong ground game for the party raking in almost as many votes (5.6 million) in October as at the time of its 2011 majority victory (5.8 million).

But almost three million new or lapsed voters turned out in October, with the Conservatives ending up with a smaller share of an expanded election pie.

Together the Reform/Alliance and the Progressive Conservative parties lost to Jean Chrétien in 1993, 1997 and 2000 with a larger percentage of the vote than the unified party Harper led to defeat against Trudeau last fall.

The Liberals campaigned to the left of the NDP under a leader with none of the business or political credentials that had made Paul Martin and Chrétien appealing to many soft conservatives. It would be presumptuous for the Conservatives to assume the 2015 contingent of new voters is made up of people who lean to the right.

Byrne also asserts her party shot itself in the foot by tripping the NDP with the niqab issue in Quebec. (She makes it clear it was not her idea.) To win, she contends, Harper needed the NDP to do better.

Fair enough, but isn't the absolute dependency of the Conservatives on a favourable Liberal/NDP split to win an admission that the party has been and is content to fail to thrive on its own policy merits with as much as two-thirds of the electorate?

If that were the case, the Conservatives would — absurdly enough — have a bigger stake in a successful recast of the NDP than in their own post-election makeover.

Harper was seeking to win a fourth consecutive mandate, a feat for which there was no modern precedent.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

THE MICROTREND: What's old is brewed again

The name "compost cocktails" doesn't exactly inspire cheers, so "closed loop" is the moniker mixologists have given to a growing fad: up-cycled alcoholic drinks made with ingredients scavenged from the green bin. A huge hit across the pond, they're the beverage equivalent of the "nose-to-tail" food movement, which has seen dishes such as pig's-head sausage, jellied tripe and bone-marrow toast pop up in trendy brunch spots across Britain. Perhaps a nip of eggshell-infused vinegar or coffee oil distilled from used grounds doesn't scream "bottoms-up!" to you, but tamer trash-to-treasure tipples — house-fermented fruit scraps, macerated citrus peels — are proving popular with London bar-goers. SOURCE: THE DRINKS BUSINESS

metroview

A terrifying task: Teaching my teens to take the right risks

Darren Krause
Metro | Calgary

Last weekend, my 15-year-old son and I were getting ready for a morning of haircuts, an oil change and, of course, checking the previous night's Lotto Max tickets.

Instead of engaging him in small talk to lubricate his 9 a.m. teen brain, I began with this: "I want you to know what happened last night at Canada Olympic Park. Two teenagers died and six others were injured after they took their own sleds down the bobsled track."

This was, of course, the tragic story of Calgary twins Jordan and Evan Caldwell, and six of their friends.

He was momentarily speechless.

"Why?" he asked, eventually.

"I don't know, but that's why I'm always on you about making sound decisions. I don't want to be the parent who gets a call from police to tell me my son has died."

I was pretty blunt.

We might think that a wilful disregard for our parental authority causes teens to do the ill-advised things they sometimes do. But science tells us that teens come by questionable decisions honestly.

Dr. Kelly Schwartz, associate professor in the University of Calgary's child psychology program, says teens tend to use the emotional parts of their brain — the base region called the limbic system that's been around in our ancestors for millions of years. They like to feel a rush and tell their friends about it afterward!

Until recently it was believed that by adolescence the brain was 98 per cent developed. Not so, Schwartz says.

The frontal lobe, which processes action and future consequences, isn't fully developed until the 20s. Tack on peer pressure, and it's a recipe for disaster.

When we adults raise an eyebrow over choices our kids make, we're doing so with the benefit of fully developed frontal lobes.

Schwartz offers some basic advice to parents to exercise that teen frontal lobe.

First: Put your kids in positions in which they can either succeed or safely fail. Help them build that library of experience and consequences that they can draw upon when it really matters.

Bad decisions are a part of life. We were all teens once. We've all done something where we cheated death by the narrowest of margins.

I try hard to see things through the eyes of my 15-year-old.

This understanding helps me as I personally try to make sense of this tragedy and try to parlay it into a lesson for all four of my boys. Only time — and experience — will tell if I've done enough.

Darren Krause is the managing editor of Metro Calgary. Follow him on Twitter @metro_dk.

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Funny or Die drops Donald Trump mockumentary starring Johnny Depp

PARENTING

Author says boys must learn self-expression

Navigating parenthood at a time when masculinity is being redefined can be a mystifying experience for parents of boys.

Michael Reist, a Caledon East educator, seeks to help parents and teachers understand boys in his new book, Raising Emotionally Healthy Boys. The goal is to accommodate boys' needs and encourage them to express their feelings.

What do parents need to avoid doing?

My central thesis is that the No. 1 problem affecting males today is emotional repression. And the question is when does this repression begin? When boys enter school the first thing they experience is a shutdown of their boy energy, their need for movement and space.

The whole world tells them that there's something wrong with them. By Grade 3 they realize this isn't working for me, I'm not welcome here. My energy is a problem.

My main message, really, is to teachers I suppose when it comes to entering school: We need to do better at accommodating boy energy in school and modifying the environment of school to be more boy-friendly.

You talk about us, as a society, coming to the end of thousands of years of patriarchy. What do you mean by that?

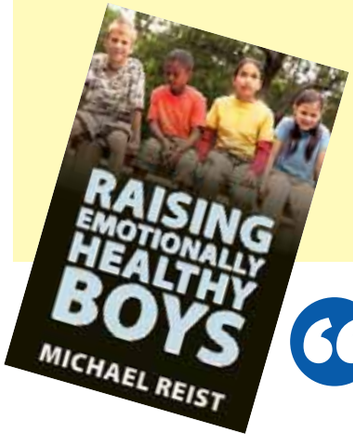
Well, the biggest revolution that we have experienced in my lifetime is feminism and feminism has totally changed the world.

This history of Western civilization is basically the history of patriarchy where men ruled. Since the 1960s, that has completely changed and the whole dynamic of society, the whole power structure of society, has changed. This is a fantastic thing. But women have had incredible role models in feminism.

On the male side, there's been absolutely nothing equivalent to that. Young boys and men are going to have to retool to fit themselves into this new economy which is about language, which is about connection, which is about relationships.

To be a man is no longer to be silent and strong and the breadwinner. That world has passed away.

How to raise a modern man



ISTOCK

> **To be a man is no longer to be silent and strong and the breadwinner. That world has passed away.**
> Michael Reist, author

How should we help retool boys for the future?

It all comes back to modelling. Boys need men who are comfortable with their emotions. We've got to get away from the idea of the stupid, irresponsible male — you get the Charlie Sheen (character on Two and a Half Men) ... who's only interested in sex and that becomes the ha-ha-ha image of masculinity.

Are you suggesting that parents should all be signing their kids up for art lessons?

It sounds frivolous. But signing girls up for hockey, that doesn't sound stupid. We really have a problem with boys with the arts, with the so-called soft skills. Creative writing, discussion groups — anything that involves expression of the self — the arts includes drama, dance, singing, all of those things (are positive).

Does one parent over the other typically have more of an impact on boys' emotional health? Mom versus dad?

Mother is still generally the primary caregiver in the early years. Fathers have to increase their role. At puberty the boy needs a model of what it is he's going to become. One of the reasons we have these man boys — playing video games while the wife runs the house — is because of the lack of initiation into positive male manhood.

It's an essential element of emotional health for males to have male role models showing them what positive manhood is.

When you say, "Men are as much the victims of patriarchy as women are," what do you mean?

Men are crushed by the rat race of patriarchy. Their lives are so damaged by the competitive patriarchal world of one-upmanship, the Donald Trump world of, "Take care of yourself, forget about the rest." It doesn't serve women, nor does it serve men. It serves the bullies. Let's change the whole system. Don't just come in here and join the old boys club — let's change the club.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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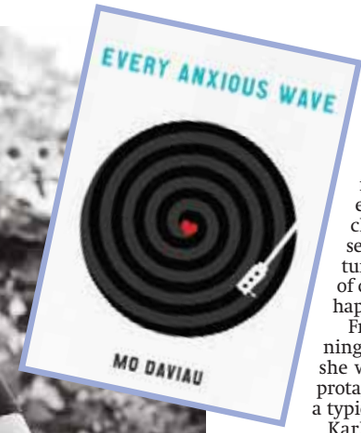
Sue Carter
For Metro Canada



Author Mo Daviau "wanted to write a feminist novel from a male perspective." COURTESY JON BOLDEN

When news broke of David Bowie's death last month, devastated fans consoled themselves by playing his music and sharing favourite YouTube videos. Those who were lucky enough to see Ziggy Stardust live recalled witnessing one of rock 'n' roll's all-time greatest performers.

For devoted music lovers, the desire to relive a favourite show or witness a concert from a band's early days comes with fandom. In her debut novel Every Anxious Wave, Portland, Ore., author Mo Daviau takes that fantasy a step further when her character, a thirty-something bartender named Karl Bender, discovers a wormhole in his closet that launches people back in time to see musicians like Queen and Elliott Smith do their thing on stage.

Of course, time travel has consequences. When Karl accidentally transports his friend and business partner Wayne back to the year 980 instead of 1980, he enlists the help of Lena Geduldig, a young, music-geek astrophysicist who wears her damaged past like an impenetrable suit of armour.

The plot shifts into an unlikely love story, and a reminder that messing with the past isn't always such a great idea.

The book's concept came to Daviau — who grew up on Sassy magazine, and was a college-radio DJ at Smith College during the 1990s — as she was at home alone one night, feeling sorry for herself.

"I had this idea that if I just cranked a song up loud enough I could break the space-time continuum and be transported back to 1995 and make different adult life choices for myself," she says. "I turned it up, but of course it didn't happen."

From the beginning Daviau knew she wanted a male protagonist, but not a typical "dude."

Karl — a former guitarist in a 1990s alternative band that enjoyed a certain amount of success — initially comes across as emotionally stunted, but he grows to become Lena's caregiver, despite how much she fights him off.

"I wanted to write a feminist novel from a male perspective," she says.

Pulling together Every Anxious Wave, published by St. Martin's Press, required eclectic research. As an icebreaker at parties and bars, Daviau would ask people "if you could go back in time to see any rock show what would it be?"

Thanks to a friend with a post-doctorate in astrophysics, she learned about the Einstein-Rosen Bridge, a hypothetical method of folding time, though she was never too concerned about its intricate mechanics, considering that Karl never really questions how the wormhole works.

"A lot of my hardcore sci-fi friends have taken me to task — that it's a weakness in the book that there's not a lot of explanation of the science behind it," she says, laughing. "I do cheat a little with his first-person voice."

As for her own rock 'n' roll time-travel fantasies? Daviau answers without hesitation: "The first-ever R.E.M. show in 1980 in Athens, Ga. The other would be the time I saw my favourite local Austin, Texas, musician Davíd Garza play at the Continental Club ... He gave me a sweaty kiss on the cheek, and said, 'Hey girl, good to see ya.'"

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

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UPCOMING

New Potter book in the works

The world is getting an eighth Harry Potter book.

Everyone's favourite wizard is back this summer in Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Parts I and II.

The book is based on one of the first scripts of the play debuting in London this year, conceived by J.K. Rowling, playwright Jack Thorne and theatre director John Tiffany.

If you were already hoping for a Cursed Child tour, you're in luck. No need to head to London, you and your Muggle money can pick up a copy July 31, 2016.

J.K. Rowling THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The setting is 19 years after the final epilogue in Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, where Harry is at platform nine-and-three-quarters, bidding farewell to his children on their way to Hogwarts.

The synopsis of the play was posted on Pottermore.com, J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter fan site, back in October 2015.

It was also tweeted out by Rowling.

Harry is working at the Ministry of Magic and will play a role in the book/play, but it will likely focus around Albus Severus Potter, his and Ginny's youngest son.

The first seven Potter books have sold more than 400 million copies worldwide, according to Scholastic, the series' U.S. publisher.

REBECCA WILLIAMS/METRO WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

Comedy gets to messy heart of love

THE SHOW: Catastrophe, Season 1, Episode 4 (Shomi)
THE MOMENT: The Wave

Sharon and Rob (Sharon Horgan, Irish, and Rob Delaney, American, who also write the show) are having a rough patch. Not only did she get pregnant the week they met, their baby may have Down syndrome. Sharon doesn't know "if I'm a good enough person to be able to look after a disabled child." Now, in a supermarket, her phone rings. It's the results of her amniocentesis.

Sharon nods. Her knees buckle. Rob finds her lying on the floor. "The hospital called," she says. "It's all OK."

Here's the thing about Catastrophe: it's a comedy. A clever, grown-up comedy, about two 40-somethings who are long past believing in happily ever after but decide to make a go of it anyway. It's full of witty, imperfect characters delivering droll observations about sex and family.

But because it's made by adults, it also finds room for this scene, which follows the supermarket: Sharon, waiting in a taxi queue, spies a little girl with Down's, who waves at her. Sharon catches the mum's eye. "She's gorgeous," she says.

"She is, isn't she?" the mum replies. Sharon looks away and the feeling that floods her face is remarkable: she's stricken, relieved, guilty, everything, all at once.

There are a dozen series out there about young people struggling to believe in coupledom. Catastrophe goes deeper, to the messy heart of what love is. When a show that makes you laugh throughout suddenly makes you cry? Not by manipulation, but by recognizing a character's ambivalence? That's gorgeous.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

Horgan and Delaney, writers and co-stars of Catastrophe, a comedy about 40-somethings thrown a curveball. CONTRIBUTED

Oh takes issue with racial casting for animated roles

DIVERSITY

Star picks her battles in fight to change Hollywood

Sandra Oh is bringing the diversity debate to the world of animation. The former Grey's Anatomy star says race seems to have been a bigger factor in landing animated parts than her various film, TV or theatre gigs.

"I have been more and specifically typecast, if one can say that, in animation than in anything else," Oh said in a recent call from Los Angeles.

"All the characters I've played are specifically Asian. And I don't particularly think that I have a specifically Asian voice."

The Ottawa-bred Oh has lent her vocal talents to projects including American Dad, Phineas and Ferb, American Dragon: Jake Long and Mulan 2.

She'll next be heard in the Canadian animated film, Snowtime!, about a group of kids from a small village who embark on a massive snowball fight. It opens across Canada on Friday after pulling in more than $3 million at the Quebec box office.

Oh said she relished the chance to get to play a boy in the film — a nerdy genius who builds an intricate snow fort at the centre of the battle. Her character Frankie isn't obviously Asian, but his skin is slightly darker and his eyes appear slightly smaller than other characters.

Hollywood's diversity problem: Sandra Oh, who has lent her voice to many animated projects, is speaking out about the lack of work available for minorities. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **Do I ever expect to be in a Woody Allen film? No. Why? Because he doesn't hire people who are not white.**
> Sandra Oh

Producer Marie-Claude Beauchamp acknowledged in an email that Frankie has some Asian traits, but said "being Asian had nothing to do with the decision to cast Sandra Oh in the role."

Without directly referring to her Snowtime! experience, Oh said she's always found it "very curious and annoying, that I've been more racially typecast in animation."

"I remember one time — this is years ago — just going, 'Why am I only going out for the Asian animated character?' And then trying to kind of make headways into like, 'Oh, can I be the Barbie voice? And not Barbie's doctor or something like that?' But no."

Oh said she's heartened by the current diversity discussion surrounding the Academy Awards, which has the ignominious honour of celebrating all-white acting nominees for the second year in a row.

But the problem is really with the film studios, said Oh, an academy member whose big screen roles include Sideways, Rabbit Hole, Tammy and Blindness.

"The academy is like the tip of the iceberg. If there's nothing to vote for, then there's no one to reward," she said.

"A way bigger challenge, or battle, is to help change the entire Hollywood system."

When it comes to chasing roles, Oh said she picks her battles carefully. She's not interested in working with anyone who hasn't displayed a willingness to embrace diversity.

"There are plenty of places that I'm not interested in going into because what's the point, they're never going to hire me." she said, reviving long-standing complaints surrounding one Hollywood heavyweight. "Do I ever expect to be in a Woody Allen film? No. Why? Because he doesn't hire people who are not white. So don't go down that alley." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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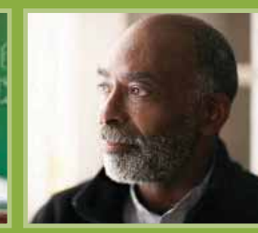

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3 VALENTINE'S DAY POSTCARD GREETINGS

The Toronto Public Library's collection of 300 or so Valentine's Day postcards makes the man who presides over them a little sad. With the rise of digital communication and e-cards, says Bill Vrantsidis, "In 10 or 20 years, nobody is going to have any record of what our romances were."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 Hot diggety dog!

Hard as it is to believe, the last century has seen the complete erosion of the romantic Dutch sausage postcard market. This valentine, marked by "a certain double entendre," as the library's Bill Vrantsidis points out, was sent on Feb. 13, 1909, from Flint, Mich., to Toronto. The card was created by Raphael Tuck and Sons, a British company that did its printing in Saxony, Germany, at least until the First World War complicated that arrangement.

2 The bottom line

This is Vrantsidis's favourite. It dates to the 1920s or 1930s and is less sophisticated. Gone are the embossing, 3D features, and little novelties of the early-20th century cards. Printing had become more simplified. The font is looser, a little Art Moderne, something you see more of in the 1930s. It's also a little more risqué. Not sausage risqué, but close.

3 Chain mail

This card mixes glitter with the cliché of a woman ensnaring a man. It was mailed anonymously in 1910 to Miss Hazel Pursey of 399 King St. E. Using the Might's Toronto City Directory, Vrantsidis found that in 1912, Hazel was a student and living with her widowed mother and her sister. Ancestry.ca showed that Hazel married landscape architect Frank Archibald Hamm in 1924. As Vrantsidis wrote on his blog, since the postcard was kept, it was likely a well-meaning joke.

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Marc Saltzman

Resist the predictable this Valentine's Day.

In other words, why buy your sweetie flowers or fancy bath soaps when you can wow your better half with some hot high-tech goodies?

Granted, an activity tracker or tablet costs more than a box of chocolates from the corner store, but your significant other is worth it.

Lovebirds who want to impress might consider one of the following tech toys for him or her, ranging in price from $18 to $400.

Lay me some skin

Why should your smartphone look like everyone else's? Instead, decorate your device with high-quality skins from Nuvango (from $18.00) that affix to the back of your favourite gadget, such as a smartphone or tablet, to give them some unique flare.

A percentage of each sale goes to the artist, or you can upload your own design to create a custom, one-of-a-kind skin, such as a family photo. Custom cases start at $29.00. At nuvango.com

Fitness first

If your better half said his New Year's Resolution is to lose a few pounds, but they need a little motivation, consider picking them up the Fitbit Flex Fitness Tracker, on sale for $99.99 until Valentine's Day. This water-resistant wearable lets you set a daily goal — such as a specific number of steps taken, distance traveled or calories burned — and the lightweight clip-on keeps track of your daily progress, awards you trophies, and syncs with devices for a deeper dive.

Jogging companion

Another wearable for your special someone, is the TomTom Spark ($299) stores up to 500 songs on your wrist to keep you entertained and motivated while exercising (via Bluetooth headphones).

It's also a fitness tracker, so it can monitor your time, distance, heart rate and calories burned, and comes equipped with a voice coach that talks you through reaching your goals, in real-time.

Double duty

Why gift a tablet when it can be a tablet and laptop in one? Available in multiple colours — including Sunset Red for Valentine's Day — the HP Pavilion x2 ($399.99) is a Windows 10- and Intel-powered "convertible" device with a 10.1-inch screen on a magnetic hinge. When you no longer need the keyboard and trackpad, simply detach the screen and take it to the couch or coffee shop to flick through ebooks, videos, or games.

Bluetooth beanie

Dress warm for the winter and still be able to take calls and hear your tunes. As the name suggests, Caseco's Blu-Toque is a Bluetooth-enabled toque with built-in headphones that you wirelessly stream music, audio books, podcasts or calls from your nearby smartphone.

Available for $49.99, these knitted caps will keep you warm — yet connected up to 30-odd feet away from your music source — and it's available in multiple colours and styles to choose from.

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If your TV is more dumb than smart, you can change all that for a mere $45. The new and improved Google Chromecast plugs into your HDTV's HDMI port and joins your home's Wi-Fi network, so you can easily access on-demand video and music from popular services, such as Netflix, YouTube, and Google Music, to name a few.

What's more, you can wirelessly stream your favourite apps from your compatible phone, tablet or laptop, to your television.

1 Nuvango smartphone skin, from $18
2 Fitbit Flex Fitness Tracker, $99.99
3 TomTom Spark, $299
4 HP Pavilion x2, $399.99
5 Caseco's Blu-Toque, $49.99
6 Google Chromecast, $45

FOR HIM AND HER

The ways to show you care

Our couples gift guide of smooth skin, soft scents and tokens of love... you're welcome.

Better than chocolate

Tease your appetites with this aromatic scrub that gently buffs away dry patches without leaving a greasy finish on skin. Better than chocolate on the sheets, trust. Fresh Cocoa Body Exfoliant, $54 at Sephora, sephora.ca.

Kissable

This playful gift box is stocked with future bath time fun as well as a tasty lip scrub and lip balm saucily named The Kiss. Lush Love and Kisses box, $54.95 at Lush stores, lush.ca.

Organic oils

Bouquets are pretty, but instead think organic rose essential oil + organic hand-pressed argan oil for soft, supple skin. It's the gift that keeps on giving. Leaves of Trees Rose Argan Oil, 50 mL, $95 via leavesoftrees.com.

Soothing baths

This clever bathbomb soothes tired muscles with Epsom salts and arnica, conditions with avocado oil, and invigorates the spirit with a light grapefruit essence. Consonant Skincare Muscle Relief Bath Bomb, $9 at consonantskincare.com.

Soft skin

Give hardworking hands loving care with a luxurious anti-aging duo that rapidly improves skin tone, firmness and texture, all with a lovely geranium and mandarin scent. Margaret Dabbs Fabulous Hands serum and lotion, $75 and $30 respectively; 1-877-787-5273 for retailers.

Luscious lips

This creamy, sweet berry-blush lipstick by superstar makeup pro Charlotte Tilbury is enriched with lip-loving emollients and antioxidants, and housed in a glamorous, show-off-worthy case. K.I.S.S.I.N.G. Lipstick in Kiss Chase, $38 at Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com.

Pretty purse

Adorable and flirty, this heart-shaped cross-body purse makes a sweet statement. $45 at Indigo, indigo.ca.

No wait watches

An elegant Swiss timepiece crafted by one of the world's oldest watchmaker brands is the ultimate heirloom accessory for him. Longines Conquest water-resistant sport watch, $1650, longines.com.

Smell of sunshine

This delightful fragrance is a fresh field of pink roses drenched in spring sunshine, carefully captured in a bottle. At Caudalie Rose de Vigne Eau Fraiche, Caudalie spas and Sephora, sephora.ca.

Cute cuffs

He doesn't need a bad-boy attitude or a worn guitar to sport this sleek cuff — but he can pretend for you. Brave Marcheline Metallic Cuff, $79, braveleather.com.

Good with gold

Make her melt with a hug and a kiss in 14K rose gold and white diamonds. Dana Rebecca Designs Initial Cuff, $1650 US, danarebeccadesigns.com.

JANINE FALCON

1 Longines Conquest watch, $1,650, longines.com
2 Lush Love and Kisses box, $54.95, lush.ca
3 Caudalie Rose de Vigne Eau Fraiche, sephora.ca

Unwrapping a great getaway gift

THINGS TO DO

Do something different and give a little time this year

Tanya Enberg

From snowshoeing and hiking at a cosy cabin retreat to heating things up in the kitchen, with Valentine's Day falling on a long weekend this year, it is a great time to squeeze in a mini getaway. Here are five fun ideas for creating a special escape with your loved one.

Culinary classes

Take plans for an intimate dinner one step further by making it together. Master a wine reduction sauce, grill perfectly seasoned steaks for two, and discover the art of fresh pasta making learning valuable tricks from seasoned chefs during a weekend culinary getaway.

Casino weekend

Bust out the halter dress and Frank Sinatra-inspired swagger, while testing your luck at the casino. Most casino towns are ripe with action beyond the chips, from hole-in-the-wall diners and high-end eateries, to lively bars, stage shows and museums along brightly lit neon strips. It's the best glittery backdrop for a non-traditional, action-packed weekend.

Rent a home away from home

Fully stocked with all the essentials, renting a house for the weekend is a simple and easy escape featuring all of the creature comforts of home. Whether exploring another neighbourhood in your own city or a new one altogether, it's a great way for couples to step out of the day-to-day and hit the refresh button. Get your search started on airbnb.ca or homeaway.ca.

Cabin retreat

Take a break from digital distractions and to-do lists for a truly bonding retreat at a winterized cabin or bed and breakfast. Spend your days absorbing nature, while snowshoeing or hiking the trails.

Go for a light skate and peruse local shops and attractions. At night, slow the pace down even further by snuggling up by a crackling fire.

Ski adventure

For snow-loving couples, renting a ski chalet for the weekend may be the magical ticket to romance and adventure.

After a day of snowboarding or skiing, head to the spa for a couples' massage to help nurture aching, après-ski muscles.

TIPS

How to plan a surprise weekend escape:

- Make sure your partner's schedule is clear before you book
- Book your getaway using a payment card that's in your name only to ensure the utmost secrecy
- Be sure to clear the browsing history on your computer
- Throw your lover off track with a gift-wrapped box with the trip details tucked inside

Culinary classes can be a fun way to cook up a little romance. ISTOCK

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metro HOME
Your essential daily news

Ikea recalls Lock and Hyby ceiling lamps

Toronto is at the forefront of the world's smartest cities with developments like Menkes Waterfront Innovation Centre, top, and Daniels' Waterfront City of The Arts. CONTRIBUTED

T.O.: One smart, connected city

CONDO TRENDS

Developments that lead the pack in the tech category

Duncan McAllister
For Metro Canada

Forward-looking planners, architects and designers know that broadband and information technology have a transformative effect economically and socially on our urban communities.

Recent major condo communities like Daniels' Waterfront City of The Arts, and Menkes Waterfront Innovation Centre puts Toronto at the forefront of the world's smartest cities.

These knowledge-based, live-work communities are geared specifically to the creative and technology industries, relying on a robust Internet infrastructure to enable all manner of commercial, educational and community services. Every condominium unit and commercial building on the waterfront will be connected to a gigabit Internet network from Day 1.

In a world dominated by bandwidth-hungry games and apps, and the popularity of 4K television, with up to four times the resolution of a Blu-ray disc, the future of condos requires an infrastructure that's able to keep up.

> **The future of condos requires an infrastructure that's able to keep up.**

In Toronto, companies like Beanfield Metroconnect and Bell Canada are actively installing "fibre to the suite," a new trend in which every condo unit gets a single strand of glass fibre that brings all your services into the home.

With this type of technology, the sky is the limit for bandwidth, future-proofing condo buildings for whatever the latest killer apps may be down the road. And developers are now offering condo wiring packages as an option, including built-in cabling for in-wall speakers, video and computer networking, and outlets in every room.

So what could possibly eat up this much bandwidth? A typical family of four may be watching TV simultaneously, recording shows in the background, downloading Internet tunes and surfing the web, all from the same household.

The future of television is moving toward streaming Internet delivery of content, a trend made popular by Netflix, with their on-demand, downloadable movie service. The industry is moving away from cable TV, satellite dishes and DVDs. With services like YouTube, Hulu, Crackle and Zazeen, soon you'll be getting all your TV from the Internet.

For those who want to deck out their suites with the latest audio-visual technology, there are many options tailored for small-space environments. The most popular components for condos this year include Ultra High Definition 4K televisions, and wireless streaming sound systems that solve the problem of limited cabling options in condos.

Smart-home technology is becoming standard for condos, with software systems that remotely monitor and control all the devices in your home.

With the evolution of the Internet of Things, über-smart, network-connected appliances will be found in every condo.

HOMEBUYER BEWARE

Property Brothers stars urge caution in hot markets (like Toronto)

Drew and Jonathan Scott live in Las Vegas, but the Property Brothers stars still invest in real estate in their hometown of Vancouver where red-hot home sales and prices show few signs of cooling.

"The big thing is we're seeing a lot of these houses that are selling for a million over list," said Drew, a real-estate expert who scouts and negotiates fixer-upper homes on the hit W Network series. His identical twin brother, Jonathan, is a licensed contractor and master builder who handles the renovations.

The Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver said last month was the second busiest January on record as residential property sales in the region jumped nearly 32 per cent, compared to January 2015. The estimated price of an average home across Metro Vancouver surged nearly 28 per cent to just under $1.3-million from January of last year.

Across Canada, the national average sale price for homes increased 12 per cent last December compared to December 2014, according to the Canadian Real Estate Association. When the greater Vancouver and Toronto areas were excluded, the increase was 5.4 per cent, CREA said.

Drew recommended would-be buyers seek an agent to evaluate comparable sold properties to help determine true market value.

"Some people get into a big frenzy and they bid up, bid up, bid up, and they don't realize they're paying way more than the house is worth. You don't want to be in that situation.

> **They don't realize they're paying way more than the house is worth.**
> Drew Scott, on the bidding war trap

"There are several times that we've looked at properties with clients, and they have all these things that they want to do. But every neighbourhood has a cap for what you can do for an improvement and what people will buy and pay for in that neighbourhood."

Enlisting a contractor who can provide a quote on repair or renovation costs can help support the efforts of an agent who can determine whether changes will be a financial boon or bust, Drew noted.

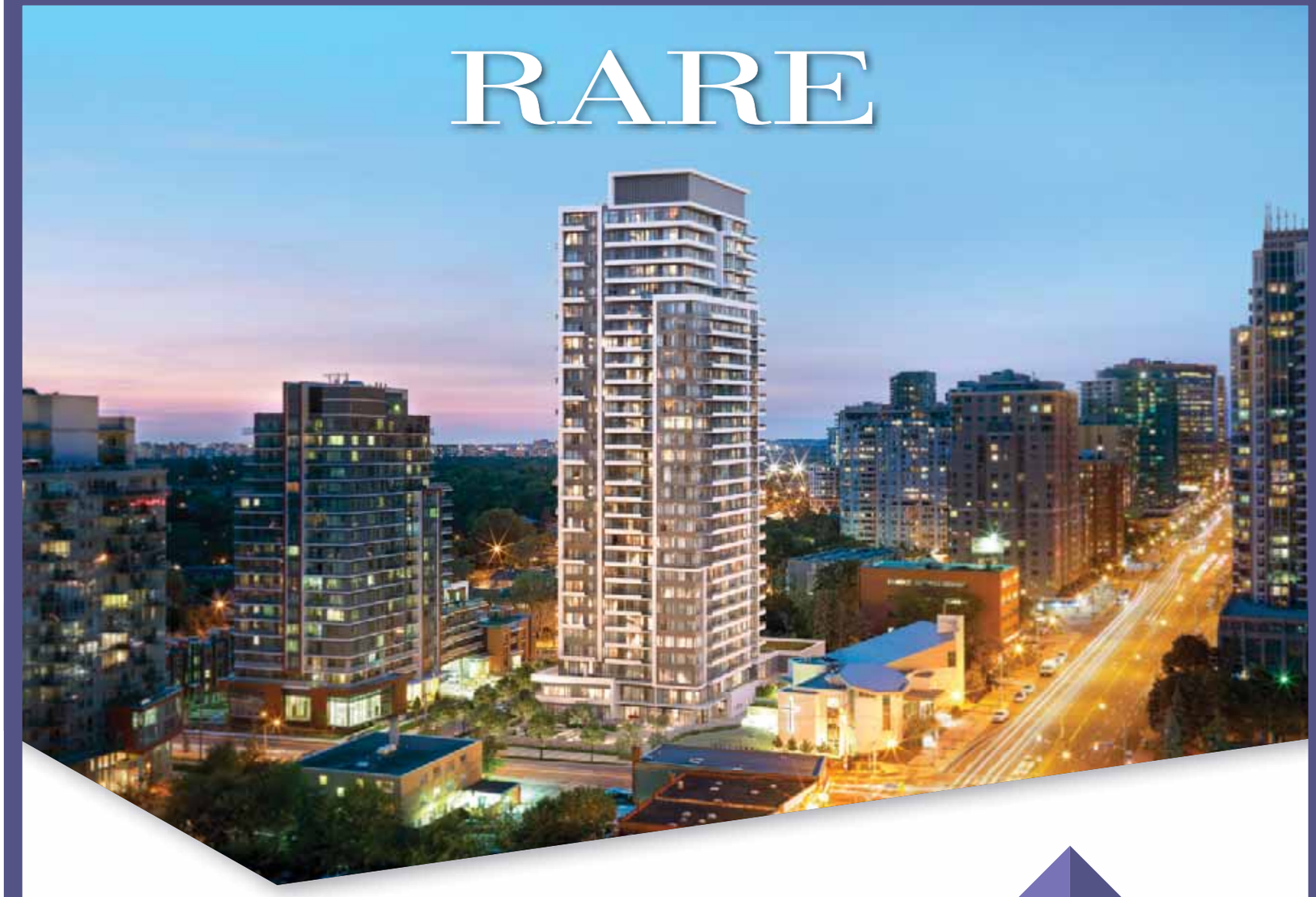
"Most people skip the step," added Jonathan. "They think: 'Hey, I want to renovate my house.' They just dive right in and they spend all this money."

"Real estate is a great way to make money," adds Drew. "It's a great way to grow an investment over the years. However, if you're not ready to get into a property, or if you're not ready to get into a certain size of property, don't rush. The worst thing you can do is become house poor, and we want to make sure that people aren't."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jonathan (left) and Drew Scott say that would-be investors should exercise more prudence than normal in markets where properties might be overvalued. HANDOUT

RARE



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REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1 NOW OPEN

Amber condominiums at the Pinnacle Uptown community in Mississauga. Visit the presentation centre at 5044 Hurontario St. Contact: 905-568-9000, pinnacle-uptown.com

2 OPEN HOUSE

Here's a nice three-bedroom house that will be shown this weekend at 62 Kerr Rd., in Toronto's east end. Feb. 13 and 14 from 2 to 5 p.m. Contact: Cameron Weir, 416-847-0920 or Scott Hanton, 416-887-2530

3 HOME SHOW

The GTA Home and Reno Show starts this week at the International Centre in Mississauga. Everything you need for your home or condo. Head over to 6900 Airport Rd., on Feb. 12 to 15. Contact: 416-644-5408, gta-homeandrenoshow.com

BILD

Something for everyone at the GTA Home and Reno Show

Bryan Tuckey
For Metro Canada

Planning a renovation takes careful planning and budgeting and is best done well in advance.

Whether you're modernizing your kitchen, finishing your basement or putting in an addition, it's important to carefully plan your project.

A great way to start your renovation planning is by visiting the GTA Home and Reno Show taking place Feb. 12 to 15 at the International Centre in Mississauga.

The Show will inspire you with more than 250 exhibitors showcasing the latest products in home design and renovation.

You will also find numerous experts and celebrities offering ideas and advice in renovating, building and design.

On Feb. 13 at 11 a.m. learn all about designing and renovating your home at the Making a House a Home seminar.

Professional RenoMark renovator Samuel Lapidus from Keystone Ridge Developments will offer advice on how to get a successful renovation started.

Celebrity designers Glen Peloso and Jamie Alexander of Peloso Alexander Interiors will be discussing the latest design trends and provide tips on how to assemble a team of professionals when renovating.

If you can't make it to the seminar, you can still get plenty of great renovation information at Destination Renovation — BILD's popular booth where professional renovators give out free advice.

It's also a good place to learn about the RenoMark program and how it can help you find licensed professional renovators, trade contractors and custom builders across the GTA.

A great resource at Destination Renovation is the dozens of before-and-after photos from our annual Renovation and Custom Home Awards.

It features many interesting examples of home renovations and covers all types of homes and all kinds of budgets.

PROMO CODE

Metro readers get a discount

• Tickets for the GTA Home and Reno Show can be purchased online at gtahomeandrenoshow.com. Use the METRO2 promo code and save $5 off the regular purchase price, exclusively for my Metro readers.

• Just a reminder that parking at the International Centre is completely free.

It is a great source of inspiration for anyone considering a home renovation.

Please enjoy the show and good luck on your renovation.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA, AND BILDBLOGS.CA.

The SweetLife near Rouge Park

Project overview

Located in Toronto's West Hill, SweetLife Condos consists of a six-storey condominium tower containing 146 units and 18 three-storey townhome units. SweetLife features spacious carefully appointed suites and townhomes in a great location.

Building amenities

Residents can enjoy a wide range of modern amenities, including a fully-equipped fitness room and yoga centre as well as a party room and lounge. Suites feature French balconies and ground level have patios.

In the neighbourhood

Located right in the heart of Scarborough, SweetLife Condos is in close proximity to local shops, restaurants, and community parks, including Highland Creek, Morningside Park and Rouge Park, Canada's largest national urban park.

CONTRIBUTED

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

What: SweetLife Condos
Builder: Your Home Developments
Architect and interiors: Romanov Romanov Architects
Location: 4470 Kingston Rd., Scarborough
Building: A six-storey tower with 146 units and 18 townhomes
Sizes: 474 to 1,442 sq. ft.
Pricing: $199,900 to $511,900
Suites: One bedroom, one bedroom plus den, two bedroom, two bedroom plus den and three bedroom
Status: Pre-construction
Occupancy: June 2018
Sales centre: 4470 Kingston Rd., Scarborough
Hours: Monday to Thursday 12 to 6 p.m. Weekends, Holidays 12 to 5 p.m. Fridays closed
Phone: 647-351-5440
Website: sweetlifecondos.ca
Email: sales@sweetlifecondos.ca

Location and transit

The building is minutes away from the University of Toronto's Scarborough campus and Centennial College. Residents are also just a few minutes away from Highway 401, TTC public transportation and the Guildwood and Rouge Hill GO rail stations.

DIY

When a book is not a book

Books are a great way to add colour and texture to a space. Whether you like to organize your books alphabetically, by size or even colour, sometimes you need a little extra support to keep them standing upright. If you prefer a clean-lined look, these invisible bookends made from old books will keep things in line without adding clutter.

SUPPLIES
- Old books
- Glue gun and glue
- Plain metal bookends

Step 1: Gather and shop for supplies
You may have old books around the house, if not they are easy to find at any thrift shop. Metal bookends can be found at office supply stores.

Step 2: Glue the book covers to the inside pages
Use a glue gun to adhere the book cover (front and back) to the inside pages. This will stop the book cover from flapping open. You may want to add some more glue throughout the book to help keep it closed.

Step 3: Attach the metal bookend to the book
Open the book to the middle and apply glue to adhere the bookend to the book.

Step 4: Allow the glue to dry
Close the book and lay it on a flat surface. Place a heavy object such as a can on top to help the glue set. Allow to dry completely. Repeat process with second bookend.

Voila! Now you're ready to prop up your favourite reads.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

These bookends are incredibly easy to make and look great. DEBRA NORTON/ TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ADVICE

Deal with adjustments early on

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan

Q: I am about to close on a condo that I purchased a number of years ago as a pre-build and it is now complete and ready for final closing where I take ownership of the unit and move into my new home. However, I have just had a huge shock when my lawyer provided the Statement of Adjustments and there are close to $20,000 in additional costs. These fees are for things like meter hookups, park levies and development charges. I want my lawyer to go back to the builder and their lawyer and see if he can negotiate a reduction in these costs. I am a first-time homebuyer and I don't have the money to pay these additional costs. What can I do?

A: When you signed your agreement of purchase and sale many months, if not years ago, there was a section in the contract that outlined "adjustments." These set out in general terms the additional costs that the builder assumes on your behalf and on final closing, they transfer to you for payment. At the time of signing the contract, you were provided with a 10-day rescission period when you can have the contract reviewed and go back to the builder with any changes. When I am retained to review a pre-build contract, I always advise clients to go back to the builder and get the adjustments 'capped.' Typically the builder won't cancel these charges but they will often put an upper limit on these fees, thereby providing you with manageable, budgeted costs.

At this late date, unfortunately, you have no recourse with the builder. The time to deal with these costs has long since passed. You had best start searching for extra funds to assist you with your closing.

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EXPENSES

Why open an RESP? Follow one family's finance story

Camilla Cornell

When Kerry and Jamie Durand-Shea of Ajax found out they were having triplets two years ago, the reality of the financial commitment hit home. "We didn't plan to have three in one shot," Kerry says. "We needed three of everything from car seats to strollers, cribs, and beds."

What's more, that cash outlay will go on for a very long time. "We'd like to be able to help the boys with school someday," she says, adding that having three kids in university at the same time is a scary thought. For that reason, setting up a registered education savings plan (RESP) for 16-month-old Christopher, Daniel, and Armand is definitely on their to-do list.

"We try to put their baby bonus cheque in the bank every month," she says, admitting she hasn't got around to setting up an RESP. What's the hold up? Blame it on baby brain, she says.

Paul Shelestowsky, a senior wealth advisor with Meridian Credit Union in Niagara-on-the-Lake, gets it — after all, he has an 11-year-old son of his own. But, he says, even if you're just going to contribute a small amount each month, it's a good idea to set up an RESP shortly after your child is born. "The sooner the better," he says, "because you're only allowed to make up for missed contributions one year at a time." Wait too long, he says, and you could be missing out on "free money from the government."

Can't manage the expense on your own? Why not ask for cash donations to your child's RESP in lieu of toys or games for Christmas or birthdays.

Kerry, far left, and Jamie Durand-Shea, and their triplet boys, from left, Armand, Christopher and Daniel. JONATHAN NICHOLLS

The advantages

The benefits of an RESP are twofold, says Shelestowsky. First, the government kicks in a 20 per cent Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG) on a maximum of $2,500 per year in contributions up to and including the year your child turns 17. That's worth an additional $500 per year to a lifetime maximum of $7,200. Families with household income below $87,907 have even more incentive as they can get an additional 10 to 20 per cent in grant money for their contributions, depending on where they fall in the income spectrum.

Finally, says Shelestowsky, earnings accumulate tax-free. Note: You don't get a tax deduction for your contribution, as you do with RRSPs.

Not all RESPs are created equal

The rules differ depending on what kind of RESP product you invest in. Group RESPs (sometimes called trusts or education funds) are the least flexible and potentially the most costly, according to Mike Holman, author of The RESP Book.

Not only are fees high, but "they're too restrictive and it makes that money harder to get out," says Holman. Such plans may stipulate a set contribution for the life of the plan; your kids can only collect the money if they attend a full-time educational program; and they can only access the cash at set intervals and for specific types of schools.

"The only sort-of benefit is they have attrition payments," says Holman. "Your kid is lumped in with other kids with the same birth year and the kids who don't go to school give up the non-contribution portion of the money, which is spread out to the other kids." So if you're absolutely positive your child will go on to higher education, you might opt for a scholarship trust. Just make sure you know the rules.

Most parents, Holman says, are better off with self-directed RESPs you can open at your local bank, mutual fund company or credit union. The benefits: you can contribute what you want, when you want, in just about any kind of investment product, and the rules tend to be looser.

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2016 NBA ALL-STAR

The 2000 dunk-off changed it all for Carter and the Raptors

For the first half-decade of their existence, the Toronto Raptors were little more than an NBA afterthought, a new team few cared about, playing in a city fewer knew about, in a country even fewer had any knowledge of.

They had a goofy dinosaur logo and cavernous ill-suited dome for a home.

Then came the league's 2000 all-star weekend in Oakland. All of a sudden, in front of the eyes of the basketball world, the Raptors became a thing thanks to Vince Carter.

The celebration set to descend on Toronto starting Friday is here in no small part because of what Carter did more than a decade and a half ago.

"You never thought about Toronto being in its own country or whatever it was," recalls DeMar DeRozan, now a fervent booster of the city and the franchise but at that point a 10-year-old fan in Los Angeles. "We just knew Toronto was far.

"Vince took it to a whole other level. I think he changed the game, the excitement people wanted to see daily and made Toronto. It was Vince."

Carter's 2000 dunk contest exploits have been well chronicled and will be celebrated this weekend. Hanging off the rim by his elbow, the through-the-legs jaw-slackening dunk, the "it's over" proclamation; it was a seminal moment for the event and for the franchise.

> **"I remember recording it on a VHS tape and watching it over and over.**
> DeMar DeRozan

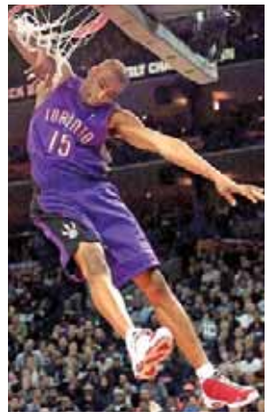
"It changed everything," Carter said. "I think some people knew who we were, where we were, but it really put Toronto on the map."

Carter was the first Raptor all-star and his name is still synonymous with all-star Saturday night. With the weekend outside the U.S. for the first time and in the arena Carter made famous, it will create some wistful memories. And contemporary ones.

"This is how old it is, I remember recording it on a VHS tape and watching it over and over," DeRozan said. "It gave you an inspiration to want to be in that spotlight, it put basketball in perspective for me, watching your favourite player and the spotlight that it brought."

There have been contributions to all-star weekends by Raptors over the last 20 years beyond just Carter but it was the 2000 edition that signalled that he, and Toronto, had arrived.

"It was something I always wanted to do, as much as just being an NBA player.... When I had the trophy it was a totally different world. Right after holding that trophy up and going into the back ... life was different." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Vince Carter brought the house down at the 2000 dunk competition in Oakland. GETTY IMAGES

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NBA

Raps unveil their new $38M practice facility

DeMar DeRozan and Kyle Lowry snuck into the Biosteel Centre in the early hours one recent morning, and shot hoops on the gleaming new hardcourt. The Toronto co-captains couldn't wait to check out their new digs.

The Raptors pulled the curtains back on their new $38-million practice facility on Wednesday, a state-of-the-art building just west of BMO Field and the culmination of a project some eight years in the making.

"It's somewhere they can call home," said Raptors president and GM Masai Ujiri. "For players to find a place to work, and call their own is such a big thing I think."

The two-storey, 68,000-square foot facility features two full size courts, plush locker-rooms with individual TV monitors above each locker, a barber shop, a large fitness and weight room, a medical and rehabilitation area that includes an underwater treadmill, and a full service kitchen and dining room. The large upstairs patio that runs nearly the length of the building overlooks Lake Ontario.

> **To see it come together now is incredible for us, it's been a long time coming.**
> Masai Ujiri

The "war room" — where roster decisions are made on NBA draft night and during free agency — looks like something out of the Tom Cruise movie Minority Report. The room has interactive screens on the curved wall and on the table top, allowing immediate access to player information, team and league stats, and trade simulation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of the Raptors' 117-112 loss in Minneapolis on Wednesday night.

IBM application architect Jamal Lacour demonstrates the technology in the war room at the new BioSteel Centre.
MARCUS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ROGERS CENTRE GETTING SOME WORK DONE Work began on the Rogers Centre's new all-dirt infield on Wednesday with drills and an excavator breaking up the stadium's concrete floor. The infield will be permanent with protective plates laid overtop for other events like concerts or festivals. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Arbitration avoided by Jays, Donaldson

MLB

AL MVP to make $11.65M in 2016, $17 in 2017

Blue Jays general manager Ross Atkins has no trouble praising American League MVP Josh Donaldson.

He's just glad he didn't have to do it in an arbitration hearing.

Donaldson agreed to a contract worth $28.65 million US on Wednesday that will keep him in Toronto at least another two years. The deal will see the 30-year-old Donaldson earn $11.65 million in 2016 and $17 million in 2017.

Donaldson and the Blue Jays were headed to arbitration — a sometimes acrimonious hearing process that can sour relations between a player and his team — until the new deal was struck on Tuesday night after the two-time all-star completed a physical. Had arbitration been necessary, however, Atkins said he had no concerns about a drawn out or bitter fight.

Josh Donaldson
GETTY IMAGES

"We would've gone into that hearing talking about how good of a player Josh Donaldson is," said Atkins, who became Toronto's GM on Dec. 3. "That's really the truth. We would not have had anything bad to say about him. The struggle with the negotiation were the comparables. We were getting into record-setting territory so going above and beyond when you're already in record-setting territory is where the challenge came."

Donaldson hit .297 with 41 home runs and a league-leading 123 RBIs in his first year in Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Meaning of gappiness

NHL

Grin and bear it: Pucksters say losing teeth is part of game

When Brent Burns packs his bags for road trips, the San Jose Sharks defenceman often leaves something behind: His cosmetic teeth.

"I don't wear them often," he said. "I usually find them in a drawer a couple months down the road and put them somewhere safe, forget where that is, and find them a couple months later."

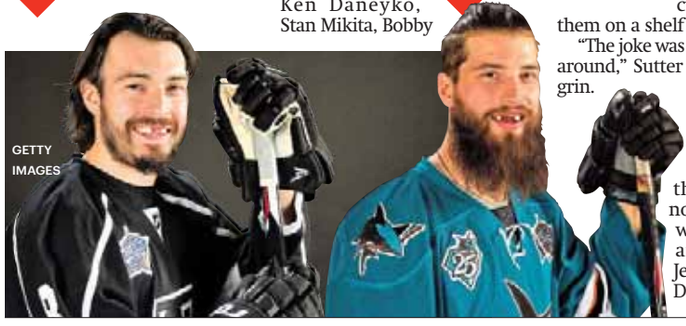
Burns, a happy-go-lucky guy, said he is missing three of his real teeth and a fourth is "hanging on by a thread." He is holding out hope it won't join his other missing Chiclets.

"I need that one for corn on the cob," Burns said with a gap-filled smile.

Alex Ovechkin has become famous for his 506 goals and an increasingly haggard smile.
DREW HALLOWELL/GETTY IMAGES

I definitely think a mouth guard helps. I probably should be wearing one.
Drew Doughty

I need that one for corn on the cob.
Brent Burns, who's missing three teeth with a fourth one loose.



GETTY IMAGES

Missing teeth have been associated with hard-nosed hockey for decades, with some players even, like Burns, embracing it as badge of honour. Gordie Howe, Bobby Clarke, Ken Daneyko, Stan Mikita, Bobby Hull — all had grins famous for what's not there.

Casual fans might assume all players are missing a few teeth — not true — but there is far more interest in keeping the originals than there was in the 1980s, a time Kings coach Darryl Sutter recalls seeing players writing their numbers on coffee cups, putting their teeth in the cups and setting them on a shelf before games.

"The joke was switching teeth around," Sutter said with a sly grin.

Hall of Famer Chris Pronger has great-looking choppers, though they're not the ones he was born with, and Winnipeg Jets defenceman Dustin Byfuglien can pop a perfect-looking tooth in and out like he's a magician.

Despite player safety being scrutinized more than ever and technological advances in equipment, hockey players are going to lose teeth. The only way to help is to force them to attach full-cage masks to their helmets and that is not going to happen any time soon, if ever.

If a player chooses to wear a mouth guard, he may help his chances of not having a concussion. His pearly whites, though, are still at risk from a puck, a stick, the ice or a check.

"I've pulled teeth out of mouth guards," Detroit Red Wings equipment manager Paul Boyer said. "They're not designed to keep the teeth in the mouth."

When players do get hit in the mouth with a stick or puck during a game, they are moments away from getting professional treatment from a team dentist and perhaps an oral surgeon. The Nashville Predators and Los Angeles Kings are among the teams with a dental chair in their arenas.

"We've got full coverage, too," Byfuglien cracked.

"An oral surgeon who can also do plastic surgery is ideal," added Pronger. "I had a nice set of teeth. Now, I've got new ones. And, I broke my jaw and you probably can't tell I had 50 stitches here and 27 there."

Unlike Byfuglien, Los Angeles Kings defenceman Drew Doughty doesn't wear his cosmetic tooth, which he calls "a flipper" because it makes his lisp worse. Doughty had all of his teeth until losing one last year and another one early this season. One got knocked out by a puck and the other by a high stick.

Doughty acknowledges he has been lax about protecting his teeth, and brain, to some extent.

"I've been told I should many, many times," he said. "My team doctors want me to wear one. With my teeth being knocked out ... I don't really think the mouth guard would help in those situations. But for concussions, I definitely think a mouth guard helps. I probably should be wearing one, but I never have my whole life so I'm not going to start now."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

7

Chicago's Duncan Keith had seven teeth knocked out by a puck in the Western Conference final-clinching game in 2011 against San Jose and quipped afterward: "You've got to leave it all on the ice."

NHL

Red Wings swoop to spoil Phaneuf's Senators debut

Danny DeKeyser and Henrik Zetterberg scored early in the first and third periods to help the Detroit Red Wings beat the Ottawa Senators and spoil Dion Phaneuf's debut with his new team with a 3-1 win Wednesday.

Petr Mrazek stopped 22 shots and his bid for a second straight shutout ended with 2:24 left when Zach Smith scored. Darren Helm restored Detroit's two-goal lead with an empty-net goal about a minute later. Phaneuf got off to a rough start. He skated backward, swiveled his hips and fell to the ice early on one of his first shifts as the veteran defenceman failed to keep up with Gustav Nyquist. Craig Anderson backed up his new teammate by stopping Nyquist on the sequence for one of his 27 saves.

The Senators made a bold, win-now move to acquire Phaneuf on Tuesday in a nine-player trade with the Toronto Maple Leafs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Striker Moore's TFC future muddy but exit is possible

English forward Luke Moore's future with Toronto FC remains up in the air but it appears the two sides are discussing an exit strategy.

Moore, 29, who has a year left on his MLS contract, has been a no-show since training camp began last month. Toronto officials said he had been granted permission to train with a team in England.

Toronto head coach Greg Vanney said Moore's representatives are in contact with GM Tim Bezbatchenko about his future with the MLS club. Moore has seven goals in 42 appearances with Toronto over two seasons.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Argos re-sign RB Whitaker

The Toronto Argonauts re-signed free-agent running back Brandon Whitaker on Wednesday.

Whitaker joined the Argos on June 21, 2015 following six seasons with the Montreal Alouettes.

The five-foot-10, 200-pound Whitaker was second in the East Division in rushing with 636 yards on 121 carries (5.3-yard average) and three TDs while adding 53 catches for 440 yards and three touchdowns.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Barcelona break record en route to Copa del Rey final

Barcelona's second-stringers salvaged a 1-1 draw against Valencia in the Copa del Rey semifinals to extend its unbeaten streak to 29 games and break the club record on Wednesday.

Barcelona reached its third-straight Copa final 8-1 on aggregate after it won the first leg 7-0 at the Camp Nou last week.

Striker Alvaro Negredo gave Valencia the lead before Barcelona equalized in the 84th minute.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RECIPE Lemon Thyme Chicken

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This dinner is pretty much our ideal February meal — it's hearty enough to enjoy as a winter, comfort meal but the bright flavours of lemon and thyme remind us that spring is just around the corner.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Total time: 45 minutes
Serves 6

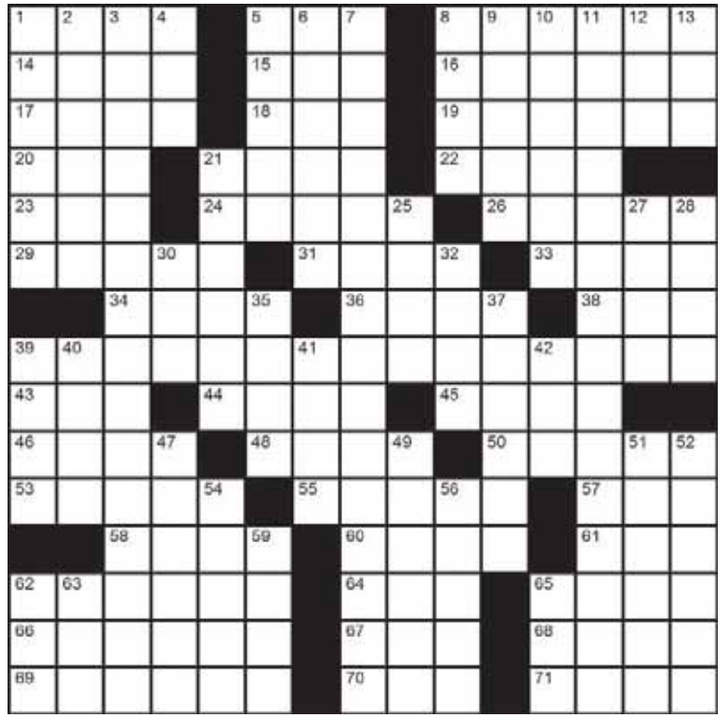
Ingredients
- 8 chicken thighs (I buy boneless, skinless), cut into bite-sized pieces
- 2 glugs of olive oil
- 2 onions, diced
- 4 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 lemon, cut 3 thin slices and juice the rest (you'll be left with about 1/4 to 1/3 cup of juice)
- 2 small-ish zucchinis, cut in half lengthwise and sliced
- 6 to 8 branches of thyme
- 2 cups low sodium chicken stock
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions
1. In a large pot or Dutch oven, warm up your olive oil over medium heat. Brown the chicken in batches — don't over crowd or the chicken won't brown nicely — but don't cook through. Place the cooked chicken on a clean plate. Drain all but 1 or 2 Tbsp of fat.
2. Put the pot back over medium heat. Sauté the onion, garlic, zucchini, thyme and lemon slices until the vegetables begin softening, about 5 minutes.
3. Add the chicken back to the pot and pour the stock and lemon juice over top. Give it all a stir, turn the heat down a touch and simmer for 30 minutes. Serve over couscous, rice or pasta.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Float like an aroma
5. 1962: "__ a Rebel" by The Crystals
8. Theatrical digressions
14. Opera-style tune
15. "Diva __ Dime"
16. Hollywood icon Marilyn
17. Endorse
18. Combine ingredients
19. Determined
20. Wynonna's actress sis
21. Kind of lily
22. Atom Egoyan and David Cronenberg, e.g.
23. Gamble
24. Mythical maiden
26. __ Rica
29. Vide __ (Latin for 'see below')
31. Herman Melville's captain
33. Glance over
34. Glass-dropper's exclamation!
36. Balls
38. Previous
39. An ancient art of Aboriginal people is the embellishment of crafts, such as jewellery, with these materials made vibrant from natural dyes: 2 wds.
43. Heart
44. Canadian actress Jessica
45. Window ledge
46. Cottage lot size
48. Shreds
50. Chompers
53. Power up the brain
55. "I'm a __ 4 U" by Britney Spears
57. French vineyard
58. Comet's follower
60. Unfortunately
61. Set-__ (Arguments)
62. Maple, in Montreal
64. Feminine side
65. Pinball infraction
66. 'S' of CSNY
67. WSW's opposite
68. Beetle variety, __ weevil
69. Trojan hero
70. Big __ (Chewing gum brand)
71. Newfoundland & Labrador town: L'__-au-Loup

DOWN
1. Green condiment for sushi
2. Up and about, formal-sounding
3. What General Wolfe's soldiers would do in the Battle of Quebec in 1759: 3 wds.
4. Nylons shade
5. Comfortable
6. Conundrum
7. Musician like Juno-winner Richard Underhill: 2 wds.
8. Among
9. __ boom
10. "This is so-and-so..." routines at parties
11. Fashion designer's offering: 2 wds.
12. Time division
13. Established
21. Snaffle like a shopper: 2 wds
25. Animal of Aesop's
27. __ order
28. & & &
30. __-A-Fella Records
32. Uses the grill
35. Box
37. Hotel rooms
39. Excellent, slang-style
40. "I got stung!"
41. Goo Goo Dolls hit
42. Island: French
47. Facilitate
49. __ solution (Contact lenses rinse)
51. Web forum nuisances
52. Disco song/dance, with The
54. To __ Mockingbird
56. Like a barn topped with a functional rooster ornament
59. More or __
62. Conductor, __-Pekka Salonen
63. Way to go, briefly
65. Acronym for a time as yet unknown

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Others say that you are aiming too high and maybe they are right but they could also be worried that you will succeed in what you are trying to do and show them up in the process.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Don't let your personal life get in the way of your career. Business first, on this occasion friends and family should take a back seat. You can make it up to them later.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Be careful when talking to people who may not share your ideas or outlook. Not everyone will approve of your questioning and while you may not care what they think they can still do you harm.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
It does not matter what others think, it matters only what your instincts tell you. And they're tell you "don't panic." Others can rush around but the best thing to do is to sit tight.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You cannot please everyone you have to deal with, so decide what relationships to focus on. Don't feel too bad about those you leave by the wayside — life does not have to always be fair.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Don't get too carried away today. Your enthusiasm could be a problem on the work front where, if you try too hard, colleagues and superiors may wonder what you're up to.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Slow down and let the rest of the world catch up with you. But don't let anyone persuade you to give up on a long-term aim. Keep striving.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
It's not like you to keep loved ones on a short leash but for some reason you have been trying to curb their freedom. It won't work. You would not accept restrictions on your own movements so don't try to impose them on others.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
What happened to your way with words? You seem at a loss to know how or why it has happened. You will find your voice again but, for now, be the strong, silent type.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You're worrying too much about your financial situation. And the more you worry the more likely it is that something will go wrong. Soon you'll look back and wonder why you made such a big fuss.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Try to stay calm today. If you lose your head even a little bit you will very quickly go all the way. You're not always the logical, practical sort. You have emotions too.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
It will be easy to feel sorry for yourself today but it would also be a crime to waste your time and your energy on needless self-pity. If you feel a bit down snap out of it.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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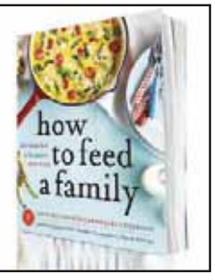

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Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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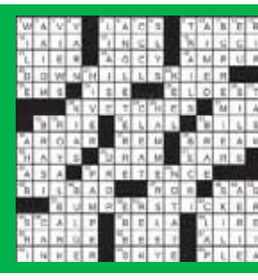

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1	9	3	6	7	2	4	8	5
9	3	6	7	5	8	2	4	1
4	5	7	1	2	6	8	9	3
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Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2016

Toronto metro

THE FAST AND THE CURIOUS

The Canadian International AutoShow • Feb. 12-21 • Metro Toronto Convention Centre

INSIDE: Art and the automobile, new models, concept cars and more

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Always a car lover's paradise

OVERVIEW

So much to see at largest consumer show in the country

Jil McIntosh

Whether you're in the market for a new vehicle, or if you just like cars, the Canadian International AutoShow is a must-see.

Along with almost every model of car, truck and SUV available, including some on display for the first time in Canada, you will also find a wide range of manufacturers' concept cars, exotic supercars, classic vehicles and hot rods, a tribute to the Indy 500, and a marketplace where you can buy parts, auto accessories and memorabilia. In total, more than 1,000 vehicles will be on display.

This year, you can find out more about the coming wave of self-driving cars at the Connected Automobile booth on the Level 800 of the South Building, or visit Audi's booth to test-drive the electric Audi A3 e-tron.

Throughout the show, visit various locations to sign up and possibly win a new Hyundai Tucson, a Gap Adventure from Subaru, a year's free gas from CAA, or $50,000 toward your next new-vehicle purchase.

More than 1,000 vehicles will be on display during the annual Canadian International AutoShow. CIAS

Held at the Metro Convention Centre, the show covers more than 60,000 square metres and is not just the country's largest automotive show, but the biggest consumer show of any type in Canada.

While company representatives will be in each booth to answer any questions, there's absolutely no sales pressure. You can't test drive the display vehicles, but this is your opportunity to get a close look at the models you may have been considering for your next purchase, and all under one roof.

A limited amount of underground parking is available at the Convention Centre, at $5 per half hour with a $30 daily maximum. Other parking facilities, not connected with the Centre, are available nearby. Ironically, the easiest and best way to get to Canada's largest auto show is by public transit.

Once you're at Union Station, take the Skywalk to either building, or walk along Front Street West to the North Building.

Ticket booths and coat checks are near the entrances in both buildings, and tickets purchased in either building give you access to everything in the show.

SHOW DETAILS

• The Canadian International AutoShow runs from February 12 to 21 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, in the North Building at 255 Front Street West, and the South Building at 222 Bremner Blvd. A free shuttle runs between them every few minutes, but if you use the escalators that connect the buildings, you'll have access to the displays on the levels in between.

• Tickets are sold at the event, but you can avoid lineups and take advantage of discounts of up to 10 per cent by buying online at AutoShow.ca. Regular ticket prices are $23 for adults, $16 for youth, $7 for children, and free for those six and under. February 16 is designated "Super Tuesday," when adult tickets drop to $12. Those 60 and over (with proof of age) enter for $11 on February 12 and 19.

Show hours

Feb 12: 12 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Feb 13-20: 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Feb 21: 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

HOW TO DO THE SHOW

Plan, experience and have fun at the show

When you first walk through the doors, the Canadian International AutoShow can be overwhelming. There's just so much to see and do, and you don't want to miss any of it.

It's best to plan your visit even before you arrive. Go to AutoShow.ca to download a map of all the auto manufacturers' booths and the numerous special sections.

Children love cars, but younger ones may get tired long before you do. As in previous years, Volkswagen's dealers sponsor the Children's Playcare Centre where you can drop them off while you continue through the show. Located on Level 600 in the South Building, it's staffed by childcare professionals and is free.

Older children — and their parents! — can spend some time in the Xbox One Gaming Area, also on Level 600, to see how good they are at Forza Motorsports 6.

More than 40 all-new vehicles are on display for the first time in Canada, alongside examples of almost every vehicle currently on sale, so it's a perfect opportunity to check them out if you're in the market for a new ride. Start your day early, or consider spending one visit just on that, and come back another day to see the other exhibits.

First of all, wear comfortable shoes, because the auto show is huge. Check your coat when you arrive. Bring a pen to fill in any contest entries: everything from a $50,000 voucher on a new car, to a trip for two to visit the Great Wall of China, is up for grabs. Bring a bag, too. While most vehicle information is now available online, some automakers still offer brochures, and often give away posters or other goodies. Make sure your phone is charged, because you're going to be taking a lot of photos.

Children can spend time in the Xbox One Gaming Area. CIAS

The auto manufacturers' booths are divided between the North and South buildings. On the 100 Level, accessible near the Front Street entrance of the North Building, are the Indy 500 display and the Auto Exotica salon, where you'll find cars from Ferrari, Lamborghini, McLaren and Rolls-Royce, among others.

The 600 and 700 Levels are accessible via the escalators between the North and South Buildings. These host the Hot Rods & Choppers display, Street Tuners customized vehicles, the Art and the Automobile salon, and Cars & Stars, along with the Accessory Marketplace. Stop here for parts to dress up your vehicle or improve its performance, or pick up memorabilia that matches either what you own, or what you dream about driving.

You can head outside for something to eat (get your hand stamped for same-day re-entry), but there are food vendors inside the show, including the Muskoka Brewery Restaurant on the 600 Level.

Above all, whether you're a tire-kicker or a serious buyer, this is a show you don't want to miss.

JIL MCINTOSH

WHAT'S ON DISPLAY

Alongside the new cars, you'll also find these at the show:

• Art and the Automobile: Classic cars from the "golden age of motoring," displayed alongside the advertisements used to sell them when they were new.
• Indy 500 The Greatest Spectacle in Racing: Get a close look at cars that raced on the "Brickyard," including some from the event's earliest years.
• Auto Exotica: Grab a picture alongside your dream car, including Pagani, Lotus, Maserati and Tesla.
• Hot Rods & Choppers: Watch a live bike build by George Tchor, owner of Kreater Custom Motorcycles, alongside a collection of bikes and custom cars.
• Connected Automobile: Learn more about the technologies that will one day make self-driving cars a reality.
• Street Tuners: As if these cars weren't pricey enough, some of Canada's top customizers have transformed vehicles like an Audi R8 and Ferrari 548 into tuners.

JIL MCINTOSH

The 1968 Lotus is part of the Indy 500 display. CIAS

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GM reserves the right to modify or terminate this offer at any time without prior notice. See dealer for details. **1** Offer applies to eligible current owners or lessees of any model year 1999 or newer car that has been registered and insured in Canada in the customer's name for the previous consecutive six (6) months. Credit valid towards the retail purchase or lease of one eligible 2015/2016 model year Chevrolet/Buick/GMC/Cadillac car, SUV, crossover and pickup models delivered in Canada from February 2, 2016 – February 29, 2016. Credit is a manufacturer to consumer incentive (tax inclusive) and credit value depends on model purchased: $500 credit available on Chevrolet: Spark, Sonic, Cruze, Malibu, '15 Camaro, Volt, Trax, Buick Encore and Verano; $750 credit available on other Chevrolet, Buick and GMC vehicles (except Chevrolet: Colorado 2SA, Silverado Light Duty and Heavy Duty, GMC: Canyon 2SA, Sierra Light Duty and Heavy Duty): $1,000 credit available on '16 Cadillac vehicles and $1,000 on all Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra trucks. Offer is transferable to a family member living within the same household (proof of address required). As part of the transaction, dealer may request documentation and contact General Motors of Canada Limited (GMCL) to verify eligibility. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. Certain limitations or conditions apply. Void where prohibited. See your GMCL dealer for details. GMCL reserves the right to amend or terminate offers for any reason, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. ▼Based on a 48 month lease for 2016 GMC Sierra Crew Cab 4x4 1SA G80+H2R+B30/Terrain SLE-1 AWD 3SA/Acadia SLE-1 AWD 3SA. Annual kilometre limit of 20,000 km, $0.16 per excess kilometre. OAC by GM Financial. Monthly/bi-weekly payments may vary depending on down payment/trade. A down payment or trade of $0 and/or $0 security deposit is required. Total obligation is $10,538/$19,128/$21,730. Option to purchase at lease end is $28,856/$13,036/$19,467. Excess wear and tear and km charges not included. Other lease options are available. ♦$2,000 is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) for 2016 GMC Sierra 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 1SA and is reflected in offers in this advertisement. Other cash credits are available on most models. See dealer for details. */1/▼/◆/***Freight & PDI, ($1,695/$1,700/$1,700), registration, air and tire levies and OMVIC fees included. Insurance, licence, PPSA, dealer fees and applicable taxes not included. Offers apply as indicated to 2016 new or demonstrator models of the vehicle equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Buick GMC Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealers are free to set individual prices. Quantities limited; dealer order or trade may be required. Limited time offers which may not be combined with other offers. GM Canada may modify, extend or terminate offers, in whole or in part, at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. **U.S. government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's New Car Assessment Program (www.SaferCar.gov). +Visit onstar.ca for coverage maps, details and system limitations. 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When looking for a vehicle, the first thing to do is figure out your requirements. JIL MCINTOSH

What to look for if you want to buy

VEHICLE HUNTING

Do your homework before hitting the dealership

Jil McIntosh

If you're in the market for a new vehicle, the Canadian International AutoShow is the best place to visit. You'll find almost every model sold in Canada, both all-new ones and those that have been on the market for a while. Rather than drive from dealer to dealer to see them, they're all here under one roof.

You can't test drive them, of course, and you'll need to do that before you make your ultimate decision. But the auto show gives you a chance to compare numerous models and narrow down the list of vehicles you'll later take for a drive at the dealership.

First of all, figure out your requirements, and, equally important, what you don't need. Many drivers overestimate and end up with a larger or pricier model than necessary. Do you really take enough people that you need a three-row SUV? Or if you insist a pickup truck must be sized to hold the traditional four-by-eight sheet of plywood, how often do you buy building materials?

Take a pen and paper to the show, and have your phone handy. You'll be looking at a lot of models and it's not easy to remember which one had the features you liked or didn't. Make notes and take photos of each one.

Get behind the wheel. With your shoulder blades touching the seat back, you should be able to reach the steering wheel without being too close to it, and push every pedal right to the floor. You should also have full visibility through all the windows, and the seatbelt shouldn't cut into your neck (most can be adjusted where they're attached to the side pillar). When you're in the proper driving position, you should be able to easily reach all the controls.

> **The auto show gives you a chance to compare numerous models and narrow down the list of vehicles you'll later take for a drive at the dealership.**

Think about what you take into your car, and if the front-seat storage space is adequate for it. The spot for your phone should be close to the charging port, while cupholders shouldn't be placed where your java will be in the way of reaching any switches.

Try getting in and out of all the seats. This is especially important if you have passengers with reduced mobility, since some door sills can be high and hard to step over. If you'll be carrying small children, be sure you can reach all the seatbelts to buckle them in.

Seat comfort is important, but it can also be tricky in the short time you'll be sitting in the vehicle. Cushy feels nice at first, but these seats may be too soft and can leave you with an achy back, even just after a short drive. Conversely, harder seats — typically the type you find in German vehicles — can provide the support needed to stay comfortable over long distances.

Open the trunk or liftgate. If you're short, be sure you can reach up for the hatch to close it. Check the "liftover" height, which is how far up over the bumper you have to hoist your grocery bags to put them in. If it's too high, it'll be a real chore. If the rear seats fold for more cargo space, are they easy to put up and down? Do they fall flat, or is there a ridge?

Finally, look at the trim lines to see what features you want. Some automakers offer "all-in" trim levels, while others let you add specific options or packages. And be cautious when comparing entry-level economy models. Some automakers leave air conditioning off the base trim to keep the advertised price down, and it may cost less to buy a higher-priced competitor equipped with it than to add air to the lower-cost one.

While it's important to look at all of these features when you're buying a car, there's so much to do during a test-drive that it's common to forget some of them. By doing all of this at the auto show, especially with all of the models right there, you have all your homework done even before you visit a dealership.

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ec EDITOR'S CHOICE – SUBCOMPACTS, PRESENTED BY CAR AND DRIVER

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HONDA

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Thinking outside the box

DEVELOPMENT

Automakers push the envelope for tomorrow

Jil McIntosh

Alongside the production models at the Canadian International AutoShow, you'll see a number of vehicles that aren't meant for the showroom floor. These are the concept cars, and they're always interesting to see.

Many are built primarily to help guide the development of new models. Some are created so designers and engineers can assess styling cues or vehicle features, often using them to gauge public opinion on a new look. Others can be used to test new engines or technologies, while a few are meant strictly to garner attention at the shows.

Their ultimate purpose can determine how they're made. If they're only meant for styling, they might not be real cars at all, but just clay or plastic over a metal or wooden frame. Some can be driven but aren't fully operational, and may have windows that don't go down or instrument clusters that aren't real.

They all have one thing in common: they're expensive. They're hand-built, and many of their parts are one-off made specifically for them, often on plastic printers or milling machines. While most of them used to be wild creations, many today are very close to the production models that may follow them in a year or two. Here are some that you'll see at the show.

Hyundai's Enduro is a subcompact SUV that the company says is inspired by motorcycle rallies. It starts with Hyundai's basic styling, but adds extra ground clearance, utility-style cladding, and air blades on the pillars.

Kia presents the Niro, which is as much about technology as it is about styling. It's the first car based on the company's new global "eco-car" platform and uses a downsized hybrid powertrain to reduce emissions.

Making its global debut in Toronto, Toyota's U2 (U-Squared), for Urban Utility, is a concept van that could ultimately compete in the work world. It features retracting roof panels and a configurable rail system for cargo. Lexus, meanwhile, goes for top-down motoring with its LF-C2 concept, a design study of a stylized 2+2 coupe.

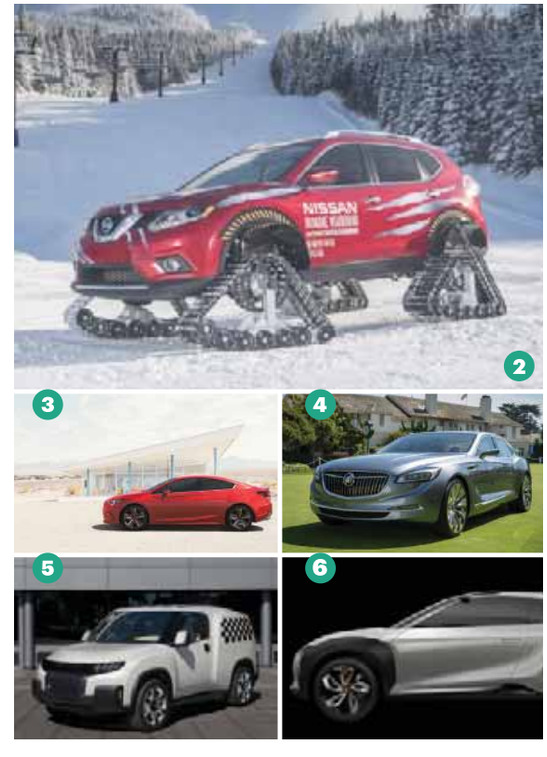
While the Buick Avenir on display is only a concept, you can see much of its styling in the all-new Buick LaCrosse that goes on sale for 2017. And Subaru says that its Impreza Concept hints not just at the design of the upcoming new Impreza, but of Subaru's future models overall.

And then again, some concepts are just out to have some fun. Don't miss Nissan's booth to get a look at the Rogue Warrior, the result of equipping this compact SUV with snow tracks instead of tires.

BEGINNING OF POPULAR CONCEPT

• It's believed the first concept car was the 1938 Buick Y-Job, created by GM chief stylist Harley Earl, who used it to test public opinion of its revolutionary new styling.

• One of the best-known concepts cars was the 1955 Lincoln Futura, but only after it retired from auto shows: customizer George Barris turned it into the original Batmobile.



1 Kia Niro
2 Nissan Rogue Warrior
3 Subaru Impreza
4 Buick Avenir
5 Toyota U2
6 Hyundai Enduro

Nissan Titan Warrior. JIL MCINTOSH

Ford Raptor. FORD

Hyundai Santa Cruz. HYUNDAI

Ford Super Duty. FORD

Honda Ridgeline. JIL MCINTOSH

Canadians love trucks

TOP PERFORMANCE

This year's new models on display at the auto show

Jil McIntosh

Canadians love trucks, and as a result, it's one of the most fiercely-fought segments in the country. Automakers are continually improving their trucks and bringing out new models to compete.

You'll see all of them at the Canadian International Auto-Show, from mid-size trucks like the Chevrolet Colorado and Toyota Tacoma, to full-size models like the Ford F-150, GMC Sierra, Ram 1500 and Toyota Tundra, and up to the dual-wheeled heavy-duty models meant for the serious stuff.

This year, you'll also see two new models from Honda and Hyundai that are taking trucks in a different direction. Among all the regular production models, be sure to see these five all-new ones.

You'll find two of them in **Ford's** booth. The high-performance F-150 Raptor SuperCrew is back and ready for ultimate off-road adventures. Like the regular F-150, it now uses an aluminum body and high-strength steel frame, but the big news is under the hood. While the last Raptor used a 6.2-litre V8 engine, the 2017 version uses a new turbocharged 3.5-litre V6 EcoBoost engine, along with a 10-speed automatic transmission. Despite the drop in displacement, the new V6 engine is just as strong as the V8 was, at 411 horsepower and 434 lb.-ft. of torque.

Ford also has an all-new Super Duty, which now uses an aluminum body and high-strength steel frame. Engineers used the resulting weight loss to offset capacity improvements, so the new truck has bigger axles and brakes than before but weighs the same. Power comes from a 6.2-litre V8 gasoline engine or 6.7-litre V8 diesel.

Honda reintroduces the Ridgeline for 2017 with more conventional styling, but it still retains its SUV underpinnings, and is now available in front- or all-wheel drive. It's a good choice for those who don't need a heavier-duty truck, although its increased payload now better accommodates dirt bikes and other outdoor gear.

Carried over are unique features like its dual-action tailgate and in-bed locking trunk, while a new available sound system plays music in the bed.

Hyundai's Santa Cruz is only a concept, but there's a possibility the company may actually build it. Based on a small SUV platform, it's called a "crossover truck" and it's meant for younger buyers who want its extra cargo capacity but prefer its compact footprint. The concept uses a 2.0-litre diesel engine with all-wheel drive, and features an extendable tailgate that slides out when more space is needed.

Having introduced its all-new Titan last year, **Nissan** now shows the Titan Warrior. It's also only a concept but looks like it could easily go into production to compete with the Raptor. Based on the Titan XD full-size diesel pickup, the Warrior was designed at Nissan's California studio and includes functional hood scoops, custom grille and lights, carbon fibre spoilers, and a heavy-duty suspension with racing-style shocks.

The cars of the rich and famous

CARS & STARS

Celebrities show off their rides at the auto show

Jil McIntosh

One of the great things about being a celebrity is that you can pretty much afford whatever your dream car is.

At the Canadian International AutoShow you'll have a chance to see just what celebs buy when it's time to fill the garage, at the Cars & Stars display on the 700 Level of the South Building.

In addition, there will be some cars that are stars themselves, famous for movies or, in the case of one special Lamborghini, through social media.

Celebrity chef Guy Fieri is also a serious car collector, and one of his more recent acquisitions, a bright yellow 1969 Chevrolet Corvette, is a highlight of the display.

The star of Diners, Drive Ins & Dives loves American muscle and so this one was a natural addition to his garage. While you're there, stop at the coffee bar alongside for some of Fieri's Single Cup Coffee.

Canadian electronic musician deadmau5 also loves cars, but he's more into high-end exotics. Two of his are on display: a McLaren P1 and his famous "Purracan," a Lamborghini Huracan themed to Japanese video sensation Nyan Cat. The design is a vinyl wrap applied by Mississauga-based company Sekanskin, which will unveil a new and surprising "car skin" at the show as well.

Madwhips has made stars out of cars through its automotive social networking site, and it will display one of its hottest, a Lamborghini dubbed the #Selfie car — and be sure to take one with it. Madwhips and the car appear courtesy of the Blacklist Rally, a five-day, 2,000-kilometre rally through 45 cities and two countries for 75 teams of high-performance sports cars.

And then there's a car that you'll know by a single name: Eleanor. Not the remake, but the original 1971 Mustang Mach 1 that was dressed up to look like a 1973 model in the first Gone in 60 Seconds. Now that is star power indeed.

Maserati Quattroporte. PHOTO COURTESY MASERATI

Canadian musician deadmau5 is into high-end exotic cars like his McLaren P1. GETTY IMAGES

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Volkswagen Beetle Dune. VOLKSWAGEN

Jeep Cherokee Overland 2016. PHOTO COURTESY FCA

Buick LaCrosse 2017. JIL MCINTOSH

Chrysler Pacifica 2017. PHOTO COURTESY FCA

Checking out new models

NEW VEHICLES

Automakers make changes to keep things competitive

Jil McIntosh

If you like to stay on top of what's new, then you need to visit the Canadian International AutoShow. This year's edition will include the debut of some 40 vehicles new to the Canadian market.

Some are updated versions of existing models, while others are completely new vehicles. But even if a vehicle's been around for a while, you should still have a look at it while you're at the show. Automakers often make minor changes from year to year, whether to freshen it up, keep it competitive, or in some cases, fix something that customers didn't like on the last one.

Here are some of the new models you can expect to see from many of the mainstream manufacturers.

Buick unveils the 2017 LaCrosse, with styling borrowed from the Buick Avenir concept car, new signature grille with tricolour logo, and all-new interior design. **Chevrolet** introduces two new small cars: the Cruze Hatchback, a liftgate-style version of its popular Cruze sedan, and the 2017 Bolt EV, an all-electric compact that's expected to go 320 kilometres on a charge and be competitively priced. At **GMC**, the all-new 2017 Acadia crossover is now smaller overall than before, but still offers available three-row seating, along with the top-of-the-line Denali luxury trim package.

Chrysler updates its minivan, discontinuing the Dodge Grand Caravan and Chrysler Town & Country in favour of the all-new Pacifica. In addition to the usual people-mover features, the optional navigation system has a screen for children that answers the age-old question of "Are we there yet?" It also comes as the Pacifica Hybrid, which not only operates as a conventional gas-electric hybrid but can be plugged in for approximately 50 kilometres of battery-only driving.

Those who like luxury even on rougher terrain should look for the 2016 **Jeep** Cherokee Overland, which adds upscale features and distinct exterior styling cues. In honour of Jeep's founding in 1941, each vehicle in the 2016 Jeep lineup is now available as a 75th Anniversary trim model, and all will be on display.

Ford debuts its new 2017 Fusion, which also comes as a hybrid and Fusion Energi plug-in hybrid. Enthusiasts should check out the Fusion V6 Sport, with its 325-horsepower twin-turbo engine and all-wheel drive. Those who like creature comforts can opt for the Fusion Platinum AWD, with leather-wrapped dash, unique grille, and 19-inch polished wheels.

Following the launch of its all-new Civic sedan, **Honda** shows the 2016 Civic Coupe. Like the sedan, it comes with a choice of two engines, including its first-ever turbocharged powerplant. While it shares the sedan's front-end styling, the Coupe features a lower roofline, shorter rear overhang and unique taillights, along with completely new interior styling and a roomier interior than the last Civic Coupe.

Kia will have two new models, the 2016 Optima mid-size sedan and 2017 Sportage. The Sportage is the longest-running Kia nameplate in Canada and this marks its fourth generation, with a stiffer structure, completely new styling, longer wheelbase, and redesigned interior. The Optima is also slightly larger for more interior room, and the new styling includes available adaptive headlights that move with steering input to illuminate around corners.

After disappearing for a year, the **Mazda** CX-9 returns for 2016. The three-row mid-size SUV is the first to use the company's new 2.5-litre turbocharged engine and features SkyActiv, Mazda's name for its optimized fuel-saving technologies that include improvements to the engine and transmission, and use of lightweight materials. Available safety features include blind spot monitoring, radar cruise control that adapts to traffic in front, and automatic emergency braking.

Nissan brings a refreshed Sentra to market for 2016, building on that model's complete redesign in 2013. The new styling gives it the brand's new signature grille and boomerang-style headlights, while suspension tweaks and a stiffer support bracket give it a quieter ride and better handling.

Taking cues from classic Baja Bugs, **Volkswagen** debuts the 2016 Beetle Dune for the first time in Canada. Based on the Beetle coupe, the Dune has unique front and rear fascias, black wheel arch extensions, and a raised ride height and wider track. A large rear spoiler differentiates the car, as does its sport seats with orange stitching.

Golden Age of motoring returns

ARTWORK

Era on display at Art & the Automobile Exhibit

Jil McIntosh

It was an era that became known as the "Golden Age of Motoring," and it was when cars were all about long hoods, shining chrome and powerful engines. This glamorous period returns to the Canadian International AutoShow at the Art & the Automobile Exhibit, located on the 700 Level of the South Building and included with the general admission ticket.

Alongside the collection of cars is the artwork that went into the advertising used to sell them. Long before television came along, cars were sold exclusively through print ads. The earliest ones were dry and tech-heavy, with plain black-and-white drawings. But starting in the 1920s they became flashy and colourful, incorporating paintings of the cars against lush backgrounds.

There are 17 cars on display against backdrops of their advertising art. It starts with a 1904 Oldsmobile and includes the front-wheel-drive 1929 Cord, aerodynamic 1935 Chrysler Airflow, 1963 Studebaker Avanti, and a 1930 Duesenberg Model J, considered by many auto historians to be the finest American car ever built, as well as one of the costliest.

They're joined by a 1915 Cadillac, the first to carry a V8 engine; a 1908 McLaughlin-Buick from the company that would become General Motors of Canada; and a 1958 Pontiac Parisienne, a trim line sold only north of the border.

The display is designed to follow the way cars and their advertising progressed as the years went on. Early cars evolved from models that were basically motorized horse carriages, and just making sure they'd start and run each time was the automaker's main goal. As vehicles became more reliable, companies could concentrate on styling and adding features to increase their appeal to buyers.

They're not as sophisticated, as safe, or as fuel-efficient as the new models on display at the show, but these amazing automobiles were among the finest of their day, and with advertising to match.

BACKGROUND

- The rarest car in the display is a LeBaron-bodied Isotta Fraschini, one of only two made, that took Best in Show honours at the 2013 Cobble Beach Concours d'Elegance show.
- Ned Jordan, an advertiser who turned to making cars, revolutionized auto ads in 1923 when he sold his Jordan by focusing on lifestyle rather than the car.
- Because they were in development before the stock market crash, some of the most expensive and luxurious American cars came out at the height of the Depression.

1915 Cadillac, top, and the 1935 Auburn will be in Art & the Automobile Exhibit. COURTESY CIAS

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Sorento SX Turbo AWD shown‡

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Sportage SX Luxury shown‡

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Forte SX AT shown‡

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THE NEW 2016 SPORTAGE LX MT
5-Star Safety Ratings
LEASE FROM $106/BI-WEEKLY^ $1,950 DOWN AT 1.9% APR FOR 60 MONTHS^
INCLUDES $500 IN DISCOUNTS^ | PLUS $500 COMPETITIVE BONUS**
STANDARD FEATURES: HEATED FRONT SEATS BLUETOOTH® CONNECTIVITY
AVAILABLE ALL-WHEEL DRIVE

THE NEW 2016 FORTE SEDAN LX MT
5-Star Safety Ratings
LEASE FROM $66/BI-WEEKLY^ $975 DOWN AT 0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS^
INCLUDES $1,300 IN DISCOUNTS^
AVAILABLE FEATURES: HEATED FRONT & REAR SEATS | REARVIEW CAMERA

THE ALL-NEW 2016 SORENTO 2.4L LX FWD
STANDARD FEATURES: HEATED FRONT SEATS BLUETOOTH® CONNECTIVITY
AVAILABLE ALL-WHEEL DRIVE
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Offer(s) available on select new 2015/2016 models through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who take delivery from February 2 to 29, 2016. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers are subject to change without notice. All pricing and payments include delivery and destination fees up to $1,725, $5 OMVIC fee, $29 tire fee, and $300 A/C charge (where applicable). Excludes other taxes, licensing, PPSA, registration, insurance, variable dealer administration fees, fuel-fill charges up to $100, and down payment (if applicable and unless otherwise specified). Other lease and financing options also available. ◎0% financing for up to 60 months plus up to $4,000 discount available on select 2015/2016 models. Discount is deducted from the negotiated purchase/lease price before taxes. Certain conditions apply. See your dealer for complete details. **Representative Financing Example:** Financing offer available on approved credit (OAC), on a new 2015 Optima LX AT (OP742F) with a selling price of $26,474 is based on monthly payments of $375 for 60 months at 0% with a $0 down payment and first monthly payment due at finance inception. Offer also includes $4,000 discount (loan credit). Other taxes, registration, insurance and licensing fees are excluded. ^$500 Competitive Bonus offer available on the retail purchase/lease of any new 2016 Sportage, 2016 Sorento and 2016 Optima from participating dealers between February 2 to 29, 2016 upon proof of current ownership/lease of a select competitive vehicle. Competitive models include specific VW, Toyota, Nissan, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Hyundai, Honda, GM, Ford, Jeep, Pontiac, Suzuki, Saturn, Chrysler, Chevrolet, Subaru, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Lexus, Land Rover, Infiniti, Acura, Audi, Lincoln, Volvo and Buick vehicles. Some conditions apply. See your dealer or kia.ca for complete details. †Don't Pay For 90 Days™ on all models (90-day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing offers on all new 2015/2016 models on approved credit. No interest will accrue during the first 60 days of the finance contract. After this period, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal interest monthly over the term of the contract. Offer ends February 29, 2016. **Representative Leasing Example:** Lease offer available on approved credit (OAC), on the 2016 Sportage LX MT FWD (SP5MJG/2016 Sorento LX 2.4L FWD (SR75AG/2016 Forte Sedan LX MT (FE54JG) with a selling price of $24,854/$29,354/$17,534 (includes $500/$500/$1,300 lease credit discount) is based on a total number of 130 bi-weekly payments of $106/$135/$66 for 60 months at 1.9%/1.9%/0%, with $0 security deposit, $1,950/$1,950/$975 down payment and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation $15,772/$17,566/$8,654 with the option to purchase at the end of the term for $10,176/$10,342/$6,665. Lease has 16,000 km/yr allowance (other packages available and $0.12/km for excess kilometres). Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2016 Sorento SX Turbo AWD (SR75JG/2016 Forte SX AT (FE74BG/2016 Sportage SX Luxury (SP75NG) is $42,095/$26,695/$38,495. The Bluetooth® wordmark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. The Sorento received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among midsize SUVs in the proprietary J.D. Power 2015 U.S. Initial Quality Study℠. Study based on responses from 84,367 U.S. new-vehicle owners, measuring 244 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of U.S. owners surveyed from February to May 2015. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. Government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.SaferCar.gov). Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.

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†0% APR Purchase Financing is available on select new 2015 and 2016 Mazda models. §Cash rebates, Mazda Graduate and Loyalty Program rebates vary by term and model. See dealer for details. *Offer available on retail leases of new 2016 CX-5 GX (NVXK66AA00) with a lease APR of 1.69% and 130 bi-weekly payments of $133 for 60 months, the total lease obligation is $18,199, including down payment (or equivalent trade-in) of $895. Lease payments include freight and P.D.I. of $1,895, $10 OMVIC fee (all models), $23.75 Tire Stewardship fee (all models), and $100 Air Conditioning charge (where applicable). Offers valid from February 2 - 29, 2016, while supplies last. Lease and finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offers subject to change without notice.

Testing for the Canadian Car of the Year Awards was held last October when Canadian journalists drove them back to back. PHOTO COURTESY CIAS

Competing for Car of the Year

AWARDS

Journalists judge vehicles on a variety of factors

Jil McIntosh

While there are all sorts of "Best Of" vehicle awards handed out each year across the country, the ones that carry the most weight are the Canadian Car of the Year and Canadian Utility Vehicle of the Year.

Awarded by the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC), they're decided by rigorous testing that's done where the rubber meets the road. (Disclosure: I am one of the judges.)

Last fall, 70 of Canada's top auto writers met at the Canadian Tire Motorsports Park in Courtice, Ont., for a week of testing. To be eligible, a vehicle must be all-new or significantly updated for the model year. This year's awards cover 2016 model-year vehicles.

The vehicles are divided into categories by their market segment, and sometimes further by price. When judging a category, each journalist drives all of the vehicles back-to-back, on the same day, and over the same route. Every vehicle is driven on public roads, and most are also taken on a closed handling course. Sports and performance vehicles are driven on a track as well, while trucks and all-wheel-drive SUVs and crossovers are tested on an off-road course.

Journalists judge each vehicle on a variety of factors, including its performance, steering, and handling, as well as its ride comfort, cabin space, and how easy the controls are to use, among others. Those are weighted with objective data such as braking distances, cargo capacity and fuel efficiency, to come up with a final score comprised of thousands of data points.

All of the scores, including how each vehicle ranked in its category, are available to consumers at no charge at AJAC.ca.

The 42 vehicles tested were narrowed down to winners in nine categories. Earlier this year, the finalists from all the category winners were named: the Honda Civic, Volkswagen Golf R, and Volkswagen Golf Sportwagon for Canadian Car of the Year; and Kia Sorento, Mazda CX-3, and Volvo XC90 for Canadian Utility Vehicle of the Year. Specialized journalists judged the AJAC Best New Technology awards, given out at the Montreal Auto Show in January. The Best New Innovation award went to Toyota's Atkinson-cycle 3.5-litre V6 engine in the Toyota Tacoma, which uses a sophisticated timing technology to improve fuel efficiency. The Best New Safety award went to General Motors' streaming video rear camera mirror, debuting on the 2016 Cadillac CT6, which provides a 60-degree field of vision.

At the Toronto show, AJAC announced the finalists for the Canadian Green Car and Canadian Green Utility Vehicle of the Year awards, which will be handed out at the Vancouver Auto Show in March.

Cadillac's video mirror won a Best New Technology award from AJAC. GENERAL MOTORS

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HWY: 6.3L/100 KM
CITY: 8.5L/100 KM▼

Sport Appearance Package model shown♦

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CITY: 8.9L/100 KM▼

5-Door GLS model shown♦

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HWY: 9.7L/100 KM
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